

central body to control the destinies of the profession, and to assist the members in every possible way. When a nurse paid the fee for registration, one guinea, her name was put on the register and she became a member of the College, and had no more payments to make. He hoped that an indulgent public would help them to provide some of the funds which would be required for the running of the College. Up till the present time he had asked only four people to help—one subscribed £200, another £500, a third £1,000, and a fourth 1,000 guineas. He could not tell what form the Scottish constitution would take, but what they aimed at was to have an autonomous body in Scotland represented on the Central Council in London.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

In regard to the Registration Bill he pointed out that there had been a good many registration bills. They had been in consultation with those responsible for the present bill, and they had practically adopted that bill. It had been put in somewhat different form after obtaining the advice of Parliamentary counsel, and they wished to settle as much as possible of the controversial matter amongst themselves and out of Parliament. He hoped they would go to Parliament as a united body, with an agreed bill, and that would assure almost certain success. They desired to have a very large amount of support from nurses, and the only way nurses could help them was by registration. If they could obtain the registration of 10,000 nurses before they went to Parliament (and he hoped they would be able to go next month) then he was not without hope that the Government might look upon the bill as a measure that ought to be passed before the war was over. With a strong united body they would be able to make their voice heard not only in the councils of the nation but in the councils of the whole British Empire.

Professor Glaister, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Stanley, said that they were now within sight of the registration of nurses in a way they had never been during the past fifteen years or so in which they had been considering the subject.

Dr. Ebenezer Duncan, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said the movement for the registration of nurses had his hearty support.

POOR LAW ASSOCIATIONS AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

WHO SHOULD REPRESENT POOR LAW NURSES.

The controversy is still raging in the *Poor Law Officers' Journal* as to who is to represent Poor Law Nurses on the Council of the College of Nursing, when in our opinion the matter is in a nutshell. Poor Law Nurses should represent themselves. The only pity is that they have no

Poor Law Nurses' Association through which to express their special opinions, such as we have recommended should be organised on various occasions. Poor Law Matrons and Superintendent Nurses have their associations. The thousands of Poor Law Nurses should rouse themselves and form themselves into an articulate professional league and co-operate with other professional societies of nurses, so that they can help to make effective representation to Parliament, if necessary, when a Bill is next before it.

THE POOR LAW UNIONS' ASSOCIATION.

The *Poor Law Officers' Journal* reports that on Thursday this week the Executive Council of the Poor Law Unions' Association will meet in London to discuss several important questions. These will include the report by Mr. H. List and Mr. R. A. Leach on the College of Nursing. Mr. List and Mr. Leach were deputed by the Council to watch developments in this matter and report upon them, and their report, which the General Purposes Committee recommend the Council to adopt, is as follows:—"We attended a meeting of the representatives held at the St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on Thursday, June 15th, convened by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., on the subject of the proposed College of Nursing. The persons present consisted of representatives appointed by Hospital and Poor-Law Training Schools, who had been appointed to attend the meeting, on Mr. Stanley's invitation. The object of the meeting was to form a Consultative Board of the proposed College, and also to consider the first draft of the Bill for the Registration of Nurses.

"At the first glance it would appear that the movement is one for the purpose of securing the registration and improving the status of nurses, and viewed solely in this light there can be no possible objection on the part of any Hospital or Poor-Law Authority having the treatment and care of the sick, but the promoters of the scheme apparently do not propose that the movement shall be limited in this respect. The Bill laid before the meeting is to secure the Registration of Nurses, but under Clause 4 rules may be made for regulating the constitution and proceedings of the Council of the College of Nursing, and providing, if thought fit, for the representation thereon of the Privy Council, and any Government Department, and of the medical profession. There is no provision made for the representation on the Council of the governing bodies of hospitals and Poor-Law training schools for nurses. It appears that the only way in which these authorities may have any voice in the proceedings of the College is by being represented on and through the Consultative Board. This Board will consist of representatives appointed by any Hospital or Poor-Law Authority having under their control the management of a training school for nurses. In effect the Consultative Board may consist of from five to six hundred persons. It will be a most unwieldy and impossible authority for advising the Council on matters to be brought before

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)