

4169 Miss Pattie Sparkes, cert. General Hosp., Birmingham.

4170 Miss Nellie M. Maxwell, cert. Richmond Hcsp.

The meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

MEETING AT EDINBURGH.

Speaking at Edinburgh on the 15th inst., Mr. Stanley is reported to have said that there was an immense amount of organisation to be done before Parliament would entrust them with the keeping of the register. There were questions of curriculum, examinations, and length of training to be settled; and it was desirable that they should be settled by such a body as the College of Nursing rather than by the House of Commons. One point in State recognition would be that they would have protection either of uniform or some kind of badge. He gathered there was no very great wish to have a standard uniform for nurses; and special provision was being made for State protection of a badge of some kind. Anyone wearing that badge or uniform would be known to be a trained nurse, properly certificated. It was proposed to charge a fee of one guinea for registration, and after payment the nurses would be placed on the register, and there would be no further payment to make. Describing other functions of the organisation, Mr. Stanley mentioned that there were cases where nurses had received unjust treatment when going out to private cases; these cases would soon stop if it was known there was a strong body behind the nurses. Dr. Leslie Mackenzie, in the course of a discussion that followed, drew attention to the fact that under the Local Government Board in Scotland there was registration of Poor Law nurses and fever nurses. He wished to know what would be the relations between the College Nurses and this existing registration. Dr. George Robertson also pointed out that there was registration of mental nurses. Mr. Stanley, in replying to the discussion, said they were taking power to set up Local Boards, which would include that for Scotland. The mere fact that a particular form of training was recognised by the Local Government Board made it practically certain it must be recognised by the College of Nursing. Votes of thanks were given on the motion of Miss Haldane and Sir James Affleck.

THE REGISTRATION OF FEVER SPECIALISTS.

The registration of fever specialists by the Scottish Local Government Board without general hospital training is a form of registration we sincerely hope will not be recognised by any Act of Parliament, as nothing can ultimately be more unjust to the fever nurses themselves, and we cannot agree that, because a Local Government Board finds it easier and more economical to register nurses working in the fever hospitals, a

bad precedent must be adopted by the College of Nursing. Every nurse to be efficiently trained must have general hospital clinical experience, upon which to build her special work. One might as well urge that doctors who specialise in contagious diseases work could obtain their whole experience in a contagious diseases hospital.

THE POOR LAW UNIONS ASSOCIATION AND ITS "SERVANTS."

At the meeting in London on the 21st inst. of the Executive Committee of the Poor Law Unions Association, the Report on the College of Nursing presented by Mr. R. A. Leach and Mr. H. List, which we published last week, was adopted, and referred to the Parliamentary Committee, to take such action as they considered necessary to safeguard the Poor Law Training Schools, or is it to secure the control of the trained nurses by the Guardians? It would appear so, to judge from the discussion which followed upon the report.

The chairman, Mr. F. T. Beavan, urged that the Guardians ought to have a more direct and emphatic voice in this matter. The Council ought to pass something that would bring it to the front, because Guardians were practically set aside.

Miss Brodie-Hall asked the Council to take some steps to request Mr. Stanley to provide for the representation of workhouse nurses in some form or other. She moved that words be added to that effect.

Mr. R. A. Leach said the Poor-Law institutions in the aggregate had the vast majority of nurses and patients and sustained a greater responsibility than any other combination of nursing and medical treatment for the sick poor. As matters stood under the rules of the Association of the College, Guardians were going to be in the hands of the Council of the College which consisted two-thirds of nurses. In other words, administrative bodies with large responsibilities were going to be entirely in the hands—unless proper safeguards were set up—of their servants. That should not be, and, as suggested in Clause 7 of the deputation's report, they must watch the matter.

Members urged that steps should be taken to secure proper representation.

Mr. Greville Smith thought they should tell Mr. Stanley what they wanted; and if they did not get it they would have all Unions in the country behind them in opposing the Bill until they got what was wanted.

Sir Henry Manton said it was not necessary only to watch, but to take some action.

Mr. List proposed to refer the whole matter to the Parliamentary Committee.

Are Poor Law Nurses the servants of the Guardians?—we doubt it. Poor-Law Nurses have the right of appeal from the decision of the Guardians to the Local Government Board; they are primarily, therefore, servants of the State and for that reason any representation of the Poor Law Nursing Service on the General Nursing Council should be made through the Local Govern-

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