

ment Boards, and not be accorded to individual Boards of Guardians who know nothing of nursing education, and are not qualified to express an opinion on so technical a subject.

MEETING AT PLYMOUTH.

Miss C. H. Tait Mackay, Matron, Fourth Southern General Hospital, Plymouth, sends us a very long report of a meeting held at that institution on the 22nd inst. The object of the meeting was to further the interests of the College of Nursing; and Miss S. Rundle (Secretary), and Miss Gibson addressed the meeting, as ardent supporters of State Registration of Nurses, and every nurse was urged to support the voluntary registration scheme of the College. As a guarantee of their desire for instant legislation, Miss Rundle pledged the College to see that legislation procures for the profession that standard which its members desire. In enumerating the objects of the College, we are pleased to note she laid stress on "the establishing of a uniform curriculum of training and the one portal examination." In speaking of the Nurses' Bill, it was not made plain that it was not yet accepted as an agreed Bill by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, the component societies of which have, so far, not only initiated the demand for nursing legislative reform, but have very carefully conserved the professional interests of the nursing profession; nor was it made plain that nurses joining the College to support the Registration cause had to sign an agreement with the College to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of the College and the Regulations, which contain very dangerous clauses. We are of opinion that before urging nurses to register, it would be fair to them to explain the clauses of the contract.

Miss Gibson—so long "an anti"—is now apparently an ardent convert to State Registration. She said, in the past the profession had been torn by difficulties and troubles and small matters which prevented them from doing anything great in the way of organization. Two years hence, according to the constitution of the College, the entire management would be in the hands of the large majority of nurses themselves. . . . Everything, of course, depended upon the passing of the Registration Bill, which would be quickly passed if large numbers joined the College. It was, therefore, to the advantage of all to join at once. Their safety lay in the College. The passing of the Registration Bill was the only way of deciding the question of who is and who is not a good nurse.

Questions were invited, and Miss Tait Mackay, Matron of the 4th Southern General Hospital, asked by whom the Council of the College was constituted. In reply, Miss Gibson said that when the need for registration became obvious, the chairman of the Red Cross and a number of persons intimately acquainted with nursing matters held a meeting which, after careful consideration, selected what they thought was a very representative council. Arising out of a clause in the

Articles of Association, which reads, "To promote the advancement of nursing as a profession in all or any of its branches," Miss McKay asked if this was meant to include such as hospital cooks, cleaners, &c. Miss Rundle replied that the College was to be a democratic College, managed by the nurses. Cooks and cleaners would not be registered members of the College, but the nurses would be responsible for the appointment of what they called in America, "dietitians." Cooking was a subject much overlooked in the training of nurses, and they could, if they chose, institute examinations for the "dietitians."

In answer to another question, Miss Rundle said that district nurses would not be registered. They would first give the trained nurse her status, and then work together for the good of the country. The position of district nurses would receive every consideration, and the College would in due course deal with every single branch of the profession.

It was explained that there would be a place in the Bill for a clause with regard to the wearing of uniform and a badge by trained nurses only.

Among those present were the following Matrons and Lady Superintendent of Nurses:—

Miss Bridge, Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport; Miss Blackler, Totness; Miss Chaff, Truro Infirmary; Miss Cox, Military Station Hospital; Miss Foster, West of England Nurses Co-operation; Miss Gyles, S.S.F.A., Devonport; Miss Hopkins, S.D. and E. Cornwall Hospital; Miss Holleday, the Infirmary, Plymouth; Mrs. Johnston, W. Astor Nursery; Miss Kearsy, Pearn Home; Miss Priestman, Ford House Hospital; Miss Parki, Nurses Institute; Miss Terry, Q.V.J.I., Three Towns Nursing Association; Miss Ward, Bodmin.

Tea was served after the meeting, and matters eagerly discussed.

THE PROFESSION NOT DIRECTLY REPRESENTED.

In reply to Miss Tait Mackay's question: By whom was the Council of the College constituted? the correct reply would have been:—

By the seven signatories to the College of Nursing Company, all of whom are laymen. The rank and file of the nursing profession have no representation on the Council whatever, it being composed of Matrons of large hospitals, medical men, a medical woman, and laymen. It cannot, therefore, be considered "very representative" of the profession as a whole.

REGISTRATION OF DISTRICT NURSES.

Miss Rundle is reported to have said "district" nurses will not be registered. We presume this is a reporter's error, as Queen's Nurses are the most efficiently trained and best disciplined body of nurses in the Kingdom. We presume the reply referred to village nurses and cottage nurses, neither of which classes are thoroughly trained nurses, but as they should be, and mostly are, "certified midwives" under the Midwives Act, there is now no reason to confuse them with "trained nurses," or for them to be thrust on to a register for such.

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