

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

At the meeting of the Committee held on Saturday, October 21st, in the Council Chamber of the British Medical Association, Mr. T. Jenner Verrall presided. A letter from the Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was received and considered, and the following Resolution adopted:—

That the Central Committee regrets it cannot recede from the position it has taken up and fully communicated to Mr. Stanley in the letter of September 30th, and it has therefore determined to proceed with its own Bill.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the Amendments proposed in the Bill by the Executive Committee, all of which were agreed to with some slight additions and verbal alterations.

AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNING BODY.

The questions at issue between the Central Committee and the College of Nursing, Ltd., are matters of principle, the former claiming that the Nursing Profession has a right to an independent Governing Body, the authorities empowered to compose such a General Nursing Council to be clearly put forth in the Bill—the College contending that the Governing Body shall be composed of individuals named in a Bill drafted by the College, which therefore precludes a *conjoint* Bill, and necessitates automatic membership of the College, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of which are recognised as dangerously coercive by the members of the self-governing Nurses' Associations affiliated in the Central Committee, who resent being placed under lay control.

A CENTRAL EXAMINATION.

The Central Committee also stands for the one Portal System—*i.e.*, a Central Examination for all nurses after three years' training, in the wards of a hospital or of hospitals, before being placed upon the Register, after the three years' term of grace.

The College Bill makes no provision for this fundamental basis of professional organization, and has adopted three standards for registration on its Voluntary Register, now in process of compilation, upon payment of a guinea fee.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee be instructed to communicate the present position to the Nursing Profession and the Press.

The Executive Committee will meet at an early date.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Negotiations have for some time been in progress between the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing, Ltd., with a view to amalgamation. We believe such an arrangement is permissible under the Royal Charter, upon such conditions as the Corporation may deem fit. We presume that before this Royal Corporation of trained nurses absorbs—or is absorbed by—the College of Nursing Company, that the members will have an opportunity of expressing their opinion in general meeting assembled.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The annual meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Trained Nurses will be held on November 23rd at the offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Nominations for the hon. officers and resolutions must reach the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. Cutler, in writing before the 9th of November. Associations of Nurses desiring to affiliate to the National Council should apply by November 16th. The Grand Council is composed of duly appointed delegates from affiliated Associations, each of whom will receive a notice of the meeting and agenda ten days before November 23rd.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, will speak on "The Organization of the Nursing Profession by Act of Parliament."

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

At the request of the Joint War Committee, Miss Violetta Thurstan has accepted the post of Matron of the Hôpital de l'Océan, La Panne. The Executive Committee of the National Union of Trained Nurses has released her for six months, feeling it their duty to enable her to make use of her special experience and knowledge in the service of our Allies.

The Hôpital de l'Océan is a Belgian Military Hospital, with 1,000 beds. The medical director is the well-known surgeon, Dr. Depage, who was head of the hospital to which Miss Cavell's training home was attached. The nursing staff consists of Belgian and English Sisters, English V.A.D.s, and Belgian Red Cross ladies.

The Council of the N.U.T.N. will meet at 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, on November 8th, at 1.45, and November 9th, at 10.30. Members are earnestly asked to attend as important business will be discussed.

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