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EDITORIAL.

THE PRESENT POSITION.

At the present time when the authorities employing nurses are widely discussing the organization of the Nursing Profession through a Registration Bill, it is most necessary that trained nurses and the public should understand the principles for which the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is making a stand. We have therefore largely devoted our issue this week to placing before our readers the opinions expressed by various associations interested in the State Registration of Nurses, as well as the very important Statement defining the position of the Central Committee.

The Nursing Profession realizes that there are now two Nurses Registration Bills before the public, one drafted by the parent registration body, the Central Committee for State Registration, and the other by the new College of Nursing, Ltd., the original Bill being supported by an overwhelming number of the representatives of the various societies affiliated in the Central Committee. This Bill provides, as it always has done, for the direct representation of the profession of nursing on the Provisional Council empowered by Act of Parliament to make the rules to which the registered nurses will have to conform. It also provides that the authorities empowered to nominate representatives to form the General Nursing Council shall be clearly defined in the Bill, and that at the expiration of a term of grace a nurse must have had three years training in the wards of a hospital, or hospitals, and have passed an examination prescribed by the Council, before she is eligible for registration; thus a degree of self-government, three years' hospital training, and a central examination are provided for, not only for

the better organization of the nursing profession but also for the protection of the public. On the other hand the Bill promoted by the College of Nursing does not incorporate any of these fundamental principles, everything is to be left to chance.

Our readers are aware that negotiations between the Central Committee and the Council of the College of Nursing have been proceeding for many months, in the hope that a conjoint Bill might be agreed upon between these two bodies. We refer them to the simple and straightforward Statement by the Central Committee published in this issue on the negotiations which have taken place, and the reasons why they have been discontinued.

Of the nine Societies affiliated in the Central Committee, delegates of the R.B.N.A. and the Association for Promoting the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, have, without consulting the Central Committee, accepted office on the Council of the College and are therefore jointly responsible for its Bill. How far it is, either permissible or possible for the same delegates to work at the same time upon the Governing Bodies of these two organizations, especially now that they have failed to agree, we do not venture to define, but we do state most emphatically that, so long as the Council of the College refuses to incorporate in its Bill the fundamental principles for which the Central Committee has always stood, it is impossible for any person to give conscientious support to the policy of both organizations at one and the same time, and, in our opinion, he or she must at this crisis choose whom they will serve.

We advise all those who desire just legislation for the nursing profession to study, with the greatest care, the various expressions of opinion which they will find in the following pages.

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