

senting their objections to the Board of Trade, as they did in 1905.

Meanwhile, as one of the objects of the College, as stated in the Memorandum of Association, was to promote Bills in Parliament for any object connected with the interests of the Nursing Profession, and, in particular, with the education, or organisation, and protection of nurses, and for their recognition by the State, the founding of the College was a matter of peculiar interest to the Central Committee which had been formed for the furtherance of these very objects.

At a meeting held on January 15th, 1916, the Central Committee resolved to communicate with Mr. Stanley and his advisers, and ask Mr. Stanley to receive representatives of the Central Committee, and to afford them further information concerning his proposed Scheme.

In consequence, two meetings of representatives of the Central Committee and the College were held, on March 2nd, and on March 24th. The latter meeting was of some importance because the following resolution was then passed with only two dissentients:—

"That this meeting affirms, as the basis of any agreement, the necessity of (1) State Registration; (2) uniform curriculum; and (3) a one-portal examination after such period of training as may be found desirable," the promoters of the College, presumably, having become convinced that a system of voluntary registration would not receive the support of the nursing profession, a fact well known to those persons who had been promoting this reform for many years.

At this meeting, Mr. Stanley also announced that the promoters of the College had nominated certain ladies and gentlemen to form the first Council of the College.

At its meeting on April 13th the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses considered a letter from Mr. Stanley inviting the Committee to appoint nine delegates to meet a Sub-Committee of the Council of the College of Nursing, consisting of an equal number, "with the object of coming to an agreement upon the terms of a Bill to be brought before Parliament as an agreed Bill at as early a date as possible." To this the Committee agreed provided that its Bill was taken as the Draft to be considered. This proviso, however, was not carried out, but subsequently the College drafted a Bill, and upon the promise of Mr. Stanley that the Central Committee should, together with the College of Nursing, be inserted in the Bill as appointing an equal number of representatives on the Provisional Council—thus securing the direct representation of the organized Nurses' Societies on the Council which would frame the rules and regulations to which the Registered Nurses would have to conform—meetings of accredited representatives of the Central Committee and of the College took place. At these meetings the College representatives agreed to incorporate several other important provisions which the Central Committee considered essential for the protection of the Nursing Profes-

sion, and the Central Committee, in its desire to arrive at agreement with the College, went to the extreme limit of concessions compatible with the future safety of the Nursing Profession.

At the meeting of the Central Committee on June 22nd, in the Draft Bill of the College under consideration, the Central Committee was included as a nominating body on the Provisional Council, thus providing for the direct representation of the constituent nurses' organizations, formed to secure State Registration of Nurses, but, in the Draft considered on July 13th, the Central Committee had been eliminated, presumably by the Council of the College, and a proposal substituted that the first Council should be composed of 45 people to be mentioned by name in the Bill, a breach of agreement which deprives the Nursing Profession of *direct* representation on their own Governing Body.

At its meeting on September 28th, the Central Committee resolved to inform the Council of the College that if four amendments which were set out were not adopted by the College, the Committee would not continue negotiations, but proceed with its own Bill. This was without prejudice to the further consideration of minor amendments.

The four amendments to which the Central Committee attached so much importance were those relating to the Constitution of the Provisional and Permanent Nursing Councils, to the registration of nurses in practice at the time of the passing of the Act, and to the qualifications of nurses after the passing of the Act. The Committee was of opinion that there was no guarantee that either of the Nursing Councils formed in the manner proposed by the Council of the College of Nursing, would be representative of the interests concerned, and therefore desired to have it plainly stated in the Bill what bodies should appoint, or elect, the members of the Provisional and Permanent Councils.

In respect of the other two points the Central Committee was of opinion that the Clause in the Bill of the College of Nursing relating to the nurses in practice at the passing of the Act was not satisfactory, in that the conditions for admission to the Register are not explicitly stated, and that the Clause which specified the conditions of registration of nurses after the passing of the Act was too vague, as it did not enforce any hospital training, or examination, before registration.

There is, moreover, the fundamental objection in the Bill of the College that a voluntary College is to be associated with a Statutory Council. It is one thing for the College of Nursing to be represented on a Statutory General Nursing Council, it is quite another for the Council of the College to be the General Nursing Council.

As in the communication received from the College it did not signify its agreement to the amendments considered essential, the Central Committee at its meeting on October 21st, reaffirmed its intention, by a majority of 20 to 2, to proceed with its own Bill, in connection with which it considered and agreed to certain

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