

amendments in order to bring it up to date, and reaffirmed the fundamental principles as follows:—

1. That provision should be made for a Statutory General Nursing Council to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration.

2. For Direct Representation of the Nursing Profession on the General Nursing Council, and the insertion in the Bill of the authorities empowered to nominate the Council.

3. For a three years' term of grace, after the passing of the Act, for the registration of nurses in practice—who hold a certificate of training, or produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council—without further examination.

4. For the provision at the expiration of the said term of grace that a nurse must have had not less than three years' training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a hospital, or of hospitals, approved by the Council, and that such person must have passed such examination as the Council may prescribe.

LETTER SENT BY THE COLLEGE TO THE PRESS.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED, AND STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES,

6, VERE ST., CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

MADAM,—We find that there is an impression that the action of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in breaking off negotiations with the College of Nursing will in some way hamper the activities of the Council and delay their efforts to obtain State recognition for the Nursing Profession. This is not the fact.

The College stands for State Registration, and intends to use every means in its power to obtain it. By far the most effective step that can be taken in this direction is for the nurses themselves to continue to put their names on the Register, so as to hasten the time when the scheme will be placed upon the democratic basis to which it is our desire to attain.

We mean also to endeavour to enlist such support from the public as will justify the Council in preparing complete plans, upon which operations can begin as soon as ever the War is over, for a building worthy to be the headquarters of the profession.

Such an Act and such a College will be a worthy memorial to the countless women who have served their country in our hospitals at home and abroad, often at the cost of health, and too often of life itself.

Unlike the Bill of 1914, which has already been before Parliament, and which establishes a provisional Council and keeps it in existence until the "Lord President of the Council certifies that the task of forming a Register of persons entitled to be registered is sufficiently advanced to admit of an election of direct representatives of Registered Nurses," the College Bill makes the existing Register of the College the first Legal Register

under which the Nurses will proceed themselves to appoint their representatives upon the permanent Council so soon as the provisional Council has finished its task of framing the rules under which the Act is to be carried out.

Under these circumstances, we venture to hope that the Nurses throughout the country who have come forward with so much unanimity to support the College, will not relax their efforts; that they will interest their friends in it; and that they will sustain the Council in the prolonged struggle that lies before them in their endeavour to gain for Nurses the legal recognition and professional status which they have so long desired.

We are, Madam, Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ARTHUR STANLEY, *Chairman.*

A. B. BAILLIE.	J. MELROSE.
E. BARTON.	W. MINET.
J. CANTLIE.	E. W. MOWAT.
R. COX-DAVIES.	E. M. MUSSON.
A. C. GIBSON.	M. E. RAY.
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J. GLAISTER.	A. LLOYD STILL.
A. HUGHES.	S. A. SWIFT.
A. MCINTOSH.	H. G. TURNEY.
COMYNS BERKELEY	C. E. VINCENT.

(*Hon. Treas.*) JANE WALKER.

E. COOPER PERRY (*Hon. Sec.*)

Members of the Council.

THE BREACH OF AGREEMENT.

The "Statement" issued by the Central Committee and published in this issue makes the situation quite clear. The Nursing Profession must understand that it was the Breach of Agreement by the autocratic Council of the College of Nursing, Limited, which made a conjoint Bill impossible, and led the Central Committee to discontinue negotiations. Direct representation of the Central Committee in the Bill, and in consequence direct representation of its constituent societies, on the Provisional Nursing Council was promised by Mr. Stanley, the Chairman of the College. This promise was fulfilled. The name of the Central Committee was published in one Draft of the College Bill. In the Fourth Draft of the Bill the name of the Central Committee was eliminated, and thus the Nurses' Societies, which had been working for State Registration for years, were disfranchised by the Council of the College, and only as members of the College could the nominees of the Central Committee acquire representation on the Provisional Council set up by Act of Parliament, because the Bill propose to incorporate the College.

This was a grave breach of agreement, and the Central Committee wisely decided not to be placed in so invidious a position. It informed the College Council that unless the General Nursing Council under the Act provided for the direct representation of the British Medical Association, and the nurses' organizations affiliated to the Central Committee as promised, negotiations would cease. The College Council did not agree to secure this fundamental

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