

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES AND REGISTRATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the N.C.T.N. was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, November 23rd. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair.

Miss B. Cutler, Hon. Secretary, stated that, owing to the war, the usual activities of the Council had been suspended, as the time of every member was very fully occupied. In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer she read the financial report, which showed a balance of £9 17s. 5d.

The President spoke on "The Organisation of the Nursing Profession by Act of Parliament," pointing out that in such legislation adequate self-government for the nursing profession could only be acquired through direct representation of the independent trained nurses, through their own professional organisations, which were free from official pressure. That this fundamental principle was denied in the constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which was attempting to monopolise power over the whole profession through a nominated Council of Matrons, doctors, and laymen, and which had excluded all direct representation of the nursing profession. This dangerous autocracy must be resisted in any form of legislation proposed by the College of Nursing. It was the denial of direct representation of trained nurses on the Provisional Nursing Council set up in the College Bill, which advocated government by 45 irresponsible individuals, which was the chief reason that the Central Committee for State Registration had decided to discontinue negotiations with the College, and the self-governing nurses' societies affiliated to the Central Committee intended to stand firmly for this basic principle of all good government in any Bill to which they agreed. A just Bill or no Bill was their motto, and they had already secured a surprisingly large amount of sympathy from liberal-minded Members of Parliament and others. Mrs. Fenwick advised the members to instruct their colleagues on the rights of the question of the difference between the Bills drafted by the Central Committee and the College of Nursing, Ltd. There could be no agreement so long as the College Bill practically provided for the government of the nursing profession by lay committees of hospitals and infirmaries and senior officials of such institutions. The amended Bill of the Central Committee provided for the limited representation of certain interests such as the State, the Local Government Board, the Training Schools, the medical profession, but the trained nurses concerned were to have direct representation on both the Provisional and Permanent Nursing Councils, by which means no economic monopoly of their work, or dangerous disciplinary control over their lives by persons not responsible for their maintenance, could be effected—a condition of servitude made possible by the constitution of the College

of Nursing, Ltd., and by the type of legislation proposed in its Bill.

The President was thanked for her address, and the following Resolution proposed by Miss C. M. Wade, Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, seconded by Miss H. Hawkins, St. John's House Nurses' League, and supported by Mrs. Andrews, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' was passed unanimously:—

SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S BILL.

"That this Meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland desires to place on record its approval of the action of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in amending its Bill so that it can be introduced into Parliament when occasion permits, and to express its satisfaction that the Bill provides (1) for a Statutory Nursing Council for the organisation of the Nursing Profession on which trained nurses have direct representation, and (2) for the One Portal System of registration, after a three years' term of training in a hospital or hospitals, and a Central Examination."

SUPPLY OF NURSES COMMITTEE.

The President reminded the meeting that a Supply of Nurses Committee had been appointed by the War Office to "suggest the most economical method of utilising their services for civil and military hospitals," on which the thousands of nurses in Great Britain had not been accorded representation, and a registered letter sent to the War Office suggesting that this grave omission should be rectified had not even been acknowledged, she had therefore declined to give evidence before the Committee. The following Resolution, proposed by Sister Cartwright, Registered Nurses' Society, and seconded by Miss Waind, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, was passed unanimously:—

"That the National Council of Trained Nurses congratulates the Irish Nurses Association on having been granted direct representation on the Supply of Nurses Committee by the War Council, and begs to urge the Secretary of State for War to accord the same measure of justice to the Nurses of Great Britain through the National Council of Trained Nurses."

ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS.

The following Hon. Officers were nominated and elected:—

Vice President: Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Irish Nurses' Association, vice Miss Huxley, term expired.

Directors: Miss Heather-Bigg, Matrons' Council, Miss J. Davies, Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, and Miss Villiers, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss C. Forrest.

Hon. Secretary: Miss B. Cutler.

APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION.

The applications for affiliation from the National Union of Trained Nurses, and the League of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)