

public. The Committee directed that its expression of hearty approval of the policy of the Central Committee, as expressed in the amended Bill and in the "Statement," be forwarded to the Hon. Secretaries to be brought before its next meeting.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT OF HON. OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Committee also adopted a resolution of protest against the unconstitutional action of the Hon. Officers of the Royal British Nurses' Association, delegates on the Central Committee, in sending to the Press a protest in the name of the members of the R.B.N.A., who had not been consulted, concerning the considered decision of the Central Committee to amend its own Bill and make public its reasons for so doing, which it agreed to by a majority of twenty to two. The Committee expressed the opinion that, as two of the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A. had accepted office in the College of Nursing, Limited, their conduct was not unbiassed, and that their position was untenable, and calculated to disturb the harmony and impede the conduct of business on the Central Committee.

It was directed that the resolution be sent to the Hon. Secretaries of the Central Committee, and to the Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE WINTER'S WORK.

The President submitted proposals for furthering the work of the Society which were agreed to.

NEW MEMBERS.

The President reported that it was the opinion of several members of the Society that the names and qualifications of new members should not be published. The Committee agreed that at the present crisis it should not be done.

Twenty-five new members were then elected.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND REGISTRATION.

In the Report of the Medico-Political Committee of the British Medical Association, Dr. Cox, the Medical Secretary, states, under the heading of the "British Medical Association and Registration" :—

State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Committee, under the instructions of the Annual Representative Meeting and Council, is carefully watching the above question, having regard to the action of the College of Nursing, and is acting in close co-operation with the various nursing bodies represented on the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Failing agreement with the College of Nursing as to a Bill, the Central Committee, with the co-operation of the Association, will introduce its own bill.

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association was held in Glasgow on December 11th, when Miss Rae was in the chair.

The Statement issued under the authority of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses was read by the Secretary and met with unanimous approval.

Fourteen new applicants were admitted to membership.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

In reply to an Irish correspondent in the *Lancet*, December 9th, stating that "the chief objection taken by Irish nurses to the new College of Nursing, Ltd., is professional rather than national, and rests on the fact that membership of the College is open not merely to trained nurses but to those practising any branch of nursing, such as mental nursing or massage and that the latter are to have equal voice with fully trained members in the government of the College," the following reply appears in the issue of the *Lancet* of December 16th :—

IRISH NURSES AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

To the Editor of *The Lancet*.

SIR—I am at a loss to understand how your Irish correspondent has ascertained "the fact that membership of the College is open not merely to trained nurses but to those practising any branch of nursing, such as mental nursing or massage, and that the latter are to have equal voice with fully trained members in the government of the College."

On reference to the Memorandum and Articles of Association it will be seen that membership of the College is strictly limited to nurses who possess a certificate of proficiency in *general* nursing (medical and surgical), and it is the members who govern the College. Obviously, however, a college which aims at becoming the headquarters of the nursing profession in all its branches must have power to grant certificates in any special branches, but such certificates do not carry membership, nor do they entitle the holder to a place on the Register.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE,
Secretary.

Vere Street, W., December 11th, 1916.

With all due deference to the Secretary of the College, who presumably knows the provisions of its Memorandum and Articles of Association, membership of the College is not "strictly limited to nurses who possess a certificate of proficiency in *general* nursing"; it is not even limited to nurses at all!

According to the Article defining "Members":
5. The seven laymen who founded the College are members.

6. Any person, lay, medical or nursing

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