

for sick and wounded soldiers at home and abroad, and to make such recommendations as they may consider necessary for augmenting the supply"—a step which we advocated in 1914; but, in common with others, we took the strongest exception to the constitution of the new committee, which consisted mainly of the Chairman, members of committees and staff and the Secretary of the London Hospital, and entirely excluded professional opinion, not one trained nurse having a seat upon it. The Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments was, nevertheless, included, though one of the chief reasons for the unpopularity, in many instances, of work in military auxiliary hospitals is that the skilled and experienced worker is under the direction of untrained Commandants.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses thereupon passed a strong resolution respectfully submitting to the Secretary of State for War that no Committee empowered to make recommendations on the economic conditions of the nursing profession, and the supply of nursing labour, will satisfy trained nurses, which does not include direct representatives of the interests of the workers themselves, in addition to the various organizations and persons which employ them. Other protests were also made, which resulted in the heads of the Military Nursing Services and six Hospital Matrons being added to the Committee, and later on, at the instance of the Irish Nurses' Association, Miss A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C.—the only member representing a trained nurses' organization. The terms of reference were also altered as follows:—

"The Committee have been appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the resources of the country in trained nurses and women partially trained in nursing, so as to enable it to suggest the most economical method of utilizing their services for civil and military purposes."

The Committee's Report is awaited with considerable interest, and unless it makes suggestions which emancipate the skilled professional nurse from the direction of untrained lay women in Military Auxiliary Hospitals, its recommendations will fail to remove the fundamental cause of disorganization and dissatisfaction.

Outside the regular Military Nursing Services the War Office has, in our opinion, singularly failed to appreciate the professional status of the Trained Nurse, and thus to provide for the war crisis in the most harmonious manner. It is therefore to be hoped that in the forthcoming Report emphasis will be laid on this point.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

In accordance with its usual policy of taking action whenever the interests of the profession at large demand it, the National Council of Trained Nurses summoned a general meeting of members in London, on February 12th, to consider the Circular Letter sent by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., to the Chairmen of Hospitals, and others, in regard to the proposal to establish a College of Nursing for the Government of the Nursing Profession, and to apply to the Board of Trade for Incorporation without the word "limited." This most representative meeting unanimously adopted a Resolution declaring that only through an Act of Parliament providing for the State Registration of Trained Nurses by an elected Body, on which the Registered Nurses themselves have direct and sufficient representation, can the Profession of Nursing be effectively and justly organized. It further affirmed its adhesion to the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in charge of Major Chapplé, M.P., and urged upon the Government, and upon Parliament, the pressing necessity which exists for passing such a Bill.

It was also resolved that the Council should oppose the incorporation of the College of Nursing before the Board of Trade if the Memorandum and Articles of Association, when drafted, were found to be inimical to the best interests of the Nursing Profession. At a later date the Council of the Collège, failing the courage to face reasoned opposition, applied to the Board of Trade for incorporation as a Company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital, it was therefore not open to anyone to oppose its incorporation.

During the year the National Council has been strengthened by the addition to its affiliated societies of the National Union of Trained Nurses, and the recently formed League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Rochester.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

The President of the International Council of Nurses, Mrs. Henny Tscherning, has received the signal honour of the Cross of the Legion of Honour, with which she has been decorated by the French Government in recognition of her splendid work for sick and wounded French soldiers in the Danish Hospital in Paris.

The question of the next meeting of the International Council of Nurses still remains uncertain. Mrs. Tscherning considers it impossible to hold the meeting in Copenhagen in

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