

"that by joining the Central Committee the Union had committed an overt act of opposition to the College—and further that the Matrons as women of experience and knowledge should suggest, direct, and control the College."

The President pointed out that this autocratic spirit—practically denying to the rank and file of the nursing profession a right to think, speak and judge for themselves concerning their own affairs, apparently animated several of the Matrons on the College Council long known for their irreconcilable anti-registration policy in the past, of which intolerance Miss Sparshott had been a typical example. The R.B.N.A. and the Association for promoting Registration of Nurses in Scotland were not self-governing Societies of Trained Nurses, but conjoint societies of medical men and nurses, and they were outvoted by twenty votes to two on the Central Committee when it elected to amend and continue to run its own Nurses' Registration Bill, work for which it was constituted long before the College Company was in existence. In this connection she pointed out that since that time the R.B.N.A. had elected to cease to exist, and had practically made a gift of its Royal Charter to the College—and had the Central Committee agreed to the suggestions of the College, it also, no doubt unintentionally, would have committed suicide, and in her opinion betrayed its trust to the Constituent Societies of which it was formed. To prove it was a "live" Society the Committee unanimously passed the following resolution proposed by Miss Marquardt, Matron of St. Giles Infirmary, Camberwell, and seconded by Miss Ross, Matron, Western Fever Hospital, Fulham.

The Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses having read the attack made by Miss Sparshott, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, upon the self-governing societies of nurses associated in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and the National Council of Trained Nurses, of which this Society is one, indignantly protests against the claim advanced that the Nursing Profession at large should be governed by a nominated Council of Matrons of Hospitals. It claims the right of trained nurses to elect their own representatives on any Governing Body set up to control it, and is of the opinion that the autocratic policy of the Council of the College of Nursing, Limited, of which Miss Sparshott is a member, constitutes a serious danger to the economic and professional liberties of Trained Nurses.

After other business had been transacted the meeting terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

FOR A JUST BILL.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with thanks the following donations:—Mrs. G. F. Wates, £1 1s.; Miss M. Dempster, 10s.; Miss M. Harvey, 6s.; Miss E. Thompson, 6s.; Miss Le Geyt, 5s.; Miss E. M. Ambrose, 4s.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

THE BATH BRANCH.

The Bath Branch held its annual meeting on February 12th. It was stated that the War Savings Association for Nurses, which had been initiated at the last Members' Meeting, was working very successfully, about eighty Bath nurses having joined.

Miss E. L. C. Eden spoke of the various activities of the Union, and pointed out how it was now the only nationally organized self-governing professional society of nurses in England open to nurses of all training schools, and that its effectiveness depended now mainly on the number and "backbone" of its members. The Central Office was becoming widely known as a place to which members could turn for advice and which devoted itself to the interests of nurses. This fact was much appreciated by Colonial nurses.

Miss Eden then spoke on the developments in the movement to obtain State Registration, and showed how the Central Committee had been forced to give up their effort to come to an agreement with the College of Nursing when the latter refused to have a conjoint Bill granting the right of the Central Committee (which is made up of representatives of the Nurses' Societies and the B.M.A.) to appoint representatives on the first Council under the Bill, and not merely to nominate individuals on to a College Bill. She showed how these affiliated societies had done all the work for State Registration in the past and had succeeded in getting a Bill passed by the House of Lords in 1908 and one accepted for reading in the House of Commons in 1914. She showed how the right of representation was accorded the Teachers for their Council, and how it was the only way in which the opinion of the nurses outside the College could be brought to influence the formation of the rules of the Statutory Body, and expressed her conviction that only by the acceptance of this principle could the united support of the profession be obtained.

The Bath Branch unanimously passed a resolution expressing their strong opinion that the College should provide for this representation definitely in any Bill drafted by it.

LANCASHIRE NURSES MUST CLAIM POWER TO CO-OPERATE.

We have to thank Miss A. Turner, the Deputy Secretary of the Manchester Branch of the N.U.T.N. for a report of the meeting held at the Royal Infirmary, on the 10th inst. It arrived too late for insertion. We learn that Miss Sparshott expects the N.U.T.N. to change its policy at her dictation, but she appears to forget that it is a Nurses' Union and if she and other Manchester members feel that they can no longer support a union "founded to maintain the highest ideals of the Nursing Profession," and we count freedom of action amongst them, they should retire, and leave Lancashire women to manage their own affairs. They believe in co-operation.

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