

of two years, during which the principal regulations affecting their profession will be made.

A general statement of the position was made by Miss M. Heather Bigg, the President of the National Union of Trained Nurses, who concluded by asking for the support of Labour for the working nurses' Bill, which provides for democratic representation and control, and makes for freedom and economic independence.

This principle of direct representation was emphasised in a Statement by Dr. McGregor Robertson on behalf of the Scottish Nurses' Association, who claimed that the nurses themselves and the work of their organised societies should be recognised in any Bill for State Registration of Nurses.

The Irish Nurses' Association pointed out the injustice of allowing a British College of Nursing to have control of the State Register of Nurses, through Mrs. Porter, a former President of the Association, one of its delegates, and urged the point that the charge of the Register of Trained Nurses should be given to an independent body, constituted under the Nurses' Registration Act, and that no monopoly should be given to any College.

The representative of the National Union of Trained Nurses, Miss H. L. Pearse, showed how closely the economic question was connected with any Register for nurses and therefore the necessity for safeguarding the interests of the workers, which must not be imperilled by the domination of the employers on their governing body.

After thanking Mr. Wardle for his courtesy in receiving them, the deputation withdrew.

### NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

As there is a widespread misunderstanding on the subject of the Bills that have been drafted for the State Registration of Nurses, and the reasons for the differences of opinion, the National Union of Trained Nurses will be pleased to send a speaker to explain the principles involved to any meeting, or to the staff of any institution. Requests should be sent to the Hon. Sec., N.U.T.N., 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, where also personal enquiries may be made:

The Union will be very grateful for offers of voluntary help in copying Health Posters, as there is a great demand for Baby Week.

### THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Monthly Meeting of the I.N.A. was held on Saturday, May 5th. There was a good attendance. A Report was read of the sympathetic reception by the Chairman of the Labour Party in the House of Commons, of a Deputation on behalf of State Registration of Trained Nurses. Mrs. Porter and Miss M. Breay represented the I.N.A.

With regard to the Federation of I.N.A. with the N.U.T.N. which has lately taken place, the Secretary of the latter has intimated that Mrs. Corbett will represent them on the Committee of

the I.N.A. As Mrs. Corbett lives in Ireland, the Committee hope to see her very often at their meetings.

The I.N.A. Committee have asked Mrs. Porter to represent them on the N.U.T.N. Council. The arrangements for the establishment of the Irish Nursing Board are progressing; the scheme is now in the hands of the printers.

It is greatly to be deplored that in its partisan advocacy of the College of Nursing scheme the *Weekly Irish Times* is attacking most unjustly the Irish Nurses' Association—quoting the venomous statements circulated by the Burdett press, and attempting to belittle the long and honourable record of the pioneer workers for higher education and State Registration in Ireland. These ladies have, however, proved their mettle in the past, and will, we feel sure, continue to work as conscience and intelligence dictates. There never was a more unblushing "theft of thunder."

### NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

#### MORNING SESSION.

The Fifteenth Annual Conference and Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League was held at the University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C. on May 2nd. The subject chosen for discussion was, "Character Building: The Most Important Thing in the World." The Morning Session, at which there was a large attendance, was presided over by Miss Macfee, in the unavoidable absence of Miss M. F. Daniel, who was to have occupied the Chair. The proceedings were opened by the singing of the National Anthem, followed by prayer.

Miss Richardson, the popular Secretary, made the welcome announcement that, in spite of difficulties, the summer camps would be held as usual. One at Gerrard's Cross in June, and the other in the North of England in July. She considered that two things marked the past year—Progress and Opportunity.

The Nurses of the League were to be found in the Military Hospitals all over the area of the war. Many of them had won distinctions and decorations. The opportunities had been tremendous for all women, so that they could never be the same women they were two years ago.

Miss Macfee spoke on Character—"The Foundation of all true Character Building." She pointed out that the foundation always determined the shape of the building. The Sermon on the Mount was the structure on which to build the Christian character. Standing out amongst its precepts was renunciation. The Nursing Profession had thought no price too high to pay in the present war, but they should also face the other price, the absolute acknowledgment of Christ as their Master.

Miss C. L. Maynard, late Principal of Westfield College, spoke on "The Material for all true Character Building." She said that the opportunities were far more numerous now than formerly. Though ability and attainment were both very

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