

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on Thursday, June 7th, at 4 p.m. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and notwithstanding the great occupation of trained nurses at the present time, there was a large and enthusiastic attendance. Major Chapple, M.P., in charge of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and the speakers, supported the President on the platform, which was decorated with beautiful flowers sent by Miss L. Fawkes, a member whose duties as Matron of a Voluntary Auxiliary Hospital did not permit her to be present.

Miss Breay, Hon. Secretary, read letters and telegrams of regret at inability to attend, amongst others, from Miss Heather Bigg, President of the Matrons' Council, who wrote, "I am more than sorry that I cannot be at the meeting this afternoon, pressure of hospital work is the preventing cause. I am most heartily in sympathy with the resolutions that are being put to the meeting and only regret that I am unable to say so in person." A similar letter was read from Miss A. Carson Rae, Hon. Secretary Irish Nursing Board (approved by Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland). Miss E. Pell Smith (Leicester) telegraphed: "Prevented coming to registration meeting; wish it all success; sending 5 guineas towards funds." The Matrons-in-Chief of the Nursing Services from the Overseas Dominions, all registered nurses, had been invited. Miss M. C. Macdonald, R.R.C. (Canadian Army Nursing Service) wrote expressing much regret at being unable to attend. She added, "I am warmly interested in Registration and the campaign that Mrs. Fenwick is so ably carrying on"; and Miss M. Thurston, R.R.C., wrote "I am so disappointed that owing to a previous engagement I shall not be able to come to the meeting. . . Surely the recognition due to trained nurses will soon be an accomplished fact. Best wishes for a huge success."

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report emphasised the need for an Act of Parliament for the State Registration of Trained Nurses on the lines of the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and notified that this Bill had been revised and brought up to date, an important innovation being that limited representation of the training schools on the governing body was provided for.

The negotiations between the Central Committee (with which the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is affiliated) and the College of Nursing, Limited, were reviewed. The Report stated that the Committee of the Society for the

State Registration of Nurses recognised from the first that the proposals of the College of Nursing for the organisation of the nursing profession were made in the interests of the training schools, and not primarily of the trained nurses, whose organised societies were not consulted; but as the Council of the College of Nursing, nominated by its promoters, drafted a Nurses' Registration Bill an effort was made by the Central Committee to come to an agreement with the College of Nursing, Limited, so that both bodies might support a conjoint Bill.

The Report put on record the reasons why the negotiations had not resulted in agreement, the failure of the Council of the College to fulfil the undertaking that the Central Committee should, together with the College of Nursing, be inserted in the Bill as appointing an equal number of representatives on the Provisional Council, thus securing the Direct Representation of the nurses themselves through their organised societies on the first Council, which would make the Rules and Regulations to which they will have to conform. Other fundamental principles upon which the Committee laid stress were that provision should be made—

1. For a Statutory General Nursing Council to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration.

2. For Direct Representation of the Nursing Profession on the General Nursing Council, and the insertion in the Bill of the authorities empowered to nominate the Council.

3. For a three years' term of grace, after the passing of the Act, for the registration of nurses in practice—who hold a certificate of training or produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council—without further examination.

4. For the provision at the expiration of the said term of grace that a nurse must have had not less than three years' training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a hospital, or of hospitals, approved by the Council, and that such person must have passed such examination as the Council may prescribe.

As the Council of the College did not signify its agreement to those amendments, negotiations were broken off.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROMISE TO THE ORGANISED NURSES' SOCIETIES.

The undertaking given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons that full consideration would be given to any representations made by the organized societies of nurses, before the Government introduced any Bill for the Registration of Nurses, was also reported, and received with great satisfaction.

Other points alluded to in the Report were the proposed amalgamation of the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing, Ltd., the formation of an Irish Nursing Board, approved by the Royal Council of Surgeons of Ireland, promoted by the Irish Nurses' Association, and the deputation to the Chairman of the Labour Party in the House of

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