

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

A meeting of the Central Committee will be held on Saturday, July 7th, at 2.30 p.m., in the Council Chamber, at 429, Strand, by the kind permission of the British Medical Association.

THE NATIONAL POOR LAW OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

THREE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE COLLEGE COUNCIL.

We have all been interested in the demand of the National Poor Law Officers' Association for representation on the Provisional Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., a nominated body which has defined nursing standards for a Voluntary Register, preparatory to asking Parliament to recognise its Register.

The history of the struggle between these two bodies has been illuminating, and, very much against the grain, the College has succumbed to pressure and has agreed to the nomination of three persons by the National Poor Law Officers' Association on to its Council. When the demand was first made a year ago the Association was led to believe what it considered adequate representation would be granted, and it nominated ten persons, although Poor Law Nurses had no representation on its own Executive Committee. The President recognised this fundamental omission, and set to work to organise Nurses' Sections of the Association. When the list of the Amalgamated Council of the R.B.N.A. and the College was published it was found that not one of the ten had been given a seat. In reply to enquiry the Association was informed by Mr. Stanley that no representation would be granted. The N.P.L.O.A. then made a flank movement; it passed and sent to every Board of Guardians a Resolution advising obstruction to the College Bill until such time as its demands were complied with. Boards of Guardians all over the country promptly considered and agreed to the Resolution.

Further correspondence with the College then took place, and discretion being the better part of valour, the Association was asked to nominate three representatives on to the Council of the College. Unless, however, the Association insists upon its name appearing in the Bill with right of representation on the First Provisional Council set up by Act of Parliament, no adequate representation will be secured. This is the determined demand of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses before any conjoint action can be taken in support of a Nurses' Registration Bill.

THE CONFERENCE OF NURSES' SECTIONS.

On June 16th a Conference of the following representatives of the Nurses' Sections of the Poor

Law Officers Association was held at the Royal Victoria Hall, Sheffield, with Mr. T. Percival, President, in the Chair.

The representatives of the Nurses' Sections were:—

Gloucester and Somerset: Mrs. L. W. Williams, Matron, Stapleton, Bristol; Miss A. J. Blott, Charge Nurse, Stapleton, Bristol.

Liverpool and District: Miss E. Swift, Home Sister, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool; Miss A. Guest, Acting Matron, Tranmere, Birkenhead.

Yorkshire: Miss H. Ward, Superintendent Nurse, Bramley, Leeds; Miss B. Gebhard, Assistant Matron, Leeds.

North Lancashire: Miss E. Littlewood, Superintendent Nurse, Blackburn.

West Derby Union Officers: Miss R. McInnes, Assistant Matron, Walton Institution, Liverpool; Miss E. Stewart, Theatre Sister, Mill Road, Liverpool; Miss H. Shatwell, Maternity Sister, Walton, Liverpool.

Manchester and District: Miss E. A. Pickles, Matron, Booth Hall, Infirmary, Manchester.

Northumberland and Durham: Miss H. A. Clark, Matron, Sunderland; Miss A. H. Flick, Superintendent Nurse, Tynemouth.

South Yorkshire: Mrs. A. C. Lawson, R.R.C., Matron, Sheffield; Miss E. Digby, Theatre Sister, Sheffield.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE INTERESTS OF POOR LAW NURSES.

In extending a welcome to the representatives present the President reviewed the steps taken to protect the interests of Poor Law nurses in connection with the College of Nursing. He announced that three representatives were to be elected, which he did not consider adequate having regard to the number of nurses in the Poor Law service.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

Continuing, Mr. Percival said that he wished to make it perfectly clear that it was representation on the Provisional Council which was desired. At the end of two years, the Council would be elected by the votes of the members of the College, and Poor-Law nurses properly organised would be able to secure the election of whom they wished to watch over their interests in connection with the College. It was, however, by the Provisional Council that rules, regulations and conditions would largely be laid down, and after approval by the Privy Council—to which they would be subject—it would not be easy to secure amendment of regulations which might be made. At the present time there were only three Poor-Law Matrons on the Council, only one of whom was Poor-Law trained, and it was obvious that their influence was insufficient when it was borne in mind that regulations framed by the Council would have shut out from registration and membership of the College thousands of women trained in institutions recognised by the Local Government Board as training schools, if an amendment of the regulations had not been secured.

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