

by Irish Nurses. If not the Privy Council might ask: "Where are the Irish Nurses?" They had numbers of applications from Irish Nurses for membership, and these Nurses were still waiting a reply as to whether they were accepted or not. Miss Rundle could not yet tell them as she was waiting the formation of an Irish Board.

Miss Rundle spoke of finances and said the Scottish Board was asked to state how much money they would need to pay the expenses of an office, secretary, and the travelling expenses of their representatives, and a cheque was drawn for the amount required. The same thing would be done for the Irish Board.

The Chairman then invited questions, and started by asking, "How can Ireland come into a project which is named 'The British, College of Nursing'?" The name of this Kingdom is either "United Kingdom" or "Great Britain and Ireland," and suggested that if the College chose to change its name to that of "Great Britain and Ireland" Irish nurses might come in. Another point that he raised was whether the College proposed to issue different diplomas for the separate branches of nursing? And, if so, what would prevent nurses having special diplomas from taking up work for which they were not qualified.

The Right Hon. Michael Cox said he was in complete accord with what the Chairman had said as to the title of the College. Ireland had an identity of its own which they desired to maintain. Ireland had done its share in peace and in war, and would not consent to be eliminated in name, or in fame, or in repute from the scheme of a College for Great Britain, plus Ireland. (Applause.)

Miss Cox-Davies said there was no intention to put on one side the individuality of Ireland, and she would lay that point as to the title before the Council.

The Chairman considered that the change of title should be a preliminary before the Irish Board was formed.

Many leading members of the Irish Nurses' Association then accepted the invitation of the Chairman and asked their questions from the platform.

Miss Carson-Rae quoted from a letter by Miss Rundle, which appeared in the *Weekly Irish Times*, and asked (1) if membership of the College was confined to registered nurses?

Miss Carson-Rae also asked (2) "When State Registration is an accomplished fact, will a fully trained nurse be able to obtain her State Registration without becoming a member of the College of Nursing?" and (3) "If a member wishes to withdraw from membership of the College, how would she be affected as regards State Registration? Will she lose her State Registration, or is she at liberty to retain it once she has passed her examination?"

Replying to the first question, Miss Rundle stated that semi-trained nurses would not be admitted to the Register of the College; but if a nurse thought it would be an advantage to have a lay representative on the Council, she would

be free to nominate such a candidate for election. [A simple reply to this question would have been that membership of the College is open to the laity.]

It was asked whether the British part of the Council could add indefinitely to their number, while the Irish and Scottish members could only elect a certain number.

It was replied that the power of election to the Council lay in the hands of the registered nurses who are the electorate. They can say who they will or will not have on the Council.

Miss O'Flynn said: "There are large numbers of nurses' associations and leagues throughout the United Kingdom, why were none of these bodies asked to elect representatives to act on the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd.?"

Mrs. Manning asked when would the College become democratic, as at present it appeared to be highly autocratic—the Societies of Trained Nurses having been ignored?

In reply, it was stated that the electorate is the registered nurses and not any member of the college. No person can become a member of the Council unless appointed by the registered nurses.

Mrs. Earl asked if the Council may appoint any person other than trained nurses as members of the College?\*

Miss Roberts asked whether nurses working on their own would have a voice in the election of the Council, and suggested that the six Irish representatives—only three of whom would probably be nurses—would be appointed by the larger body. To which Miss Cox-Davies replied that their experience of the Scottish representatives was that they got what they wanted and would not be dominated by any one; but perhaps Ireland would be more ready to be dominated!

Miss Ramsden asked: "Does the College of Nursing consider that the work of the trained nurse is not of sufficient importance to the State to entitle her to a certificate issued solely on her behalf and separate and distinct from 'other branches of women's work connected with hospitals?' (see drafted Supplemental Charter). "If the same authority proposes to grant certificates to other workers—to those trained in special work only and also to partially trained women—does it not greatly lessen the value of the trained nurses' certificate?"

In reply it was urged that an educational body, such as this College should take charge of the teaching, examining and issuing of certificates to V.A.D.s, to whom a heavy debt of gratitude was due, and keep a register of them, so that in the case of a great national emergency they could be mobilised from headquarters of the Nursing Profession.

Dr. F. Purser asked what consideration Irish nurses were likely to receive in the proposed union?

\*According to the proposed new Bye-laws  
 † (b) "The Council may elect as members of the Corporation, any persons whom the Council may deem it advisable, in the interests of the Corporation, to elect as members therefor."

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