

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, on Thursday, November 22nd. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

LETTER FROM THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The President reported that a letter had been received from the Privy Council informing her that the Royal British Nurses' Association had decided not to proceed with their application for the grant of the Supplemental Charter. Thus the amalgamation of the College of Nursing with the R.B.N.A. would not take place under the title of the Royal British College of Nursing. The Committee agreed that a letter should be sent to the Privy Council thanking their Lordships for the consideration which their Petition had received.

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

A letter from Miss May Whitty, Chairman of the British Women's Hospital Committee, was read, in which she stated that the Committee had decided to accept Sir Arthur Stanley's invitation to appeal for the Endowment and Benefit Funds of the College of Nursing, Ltd. A Resolution was agreed to informing the British Women's Hospital Committee of the disapproval of the members of self-governing Nurses' Societies of a charitable appeal being issued in their name in time of War, and protesting against the lavish expenditure on advertisements in the Press in support of the appeal, and the subsequent exclusion of letters by trained nurses expressing their opposition to the scheme.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

It was decided to forward a resolution to the Revision of the Constitution Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, expressing the opinion that Nurses' Societies affiliated to the Union should have representation on the Executive Committee, by which means professional opinion would be available. Past experience had proved—especially during the controversy with the College of Nursing, Ltd.—that nursing opinion was not sufficiently understood by the laity.

Recent events made this request the more urgent, if affiliation to the National Union of Women Workers was to be of any practical value to the Trained Nurses' Organizations.

There was a movement to form a Central Women's Union of Enfranchised women, giving direct representation to Professional and Industrial Women's Organizations. By wise and progressive reorganization the National Union of Women Workers should make such a movement unnecessary.

NEW MEMBERS.

Forty-eight new members were elected.

MARGARET BREAY.
Hon. Secretary.

THE PRESS BOYCOTT OF NURSING OPINION.

We all remember the pre-historic days when pioneers of women's suffrage were pelted with rotten eggs, and their "immoral" opinions rigorously excluded from the male-financed press. Then, after nearly fifty years of lady-like effort, women started the suffrage press, and a few years later took other picturesque means of impressing their views upon an apathetic public—public meetings, processions, poster parades and picketing. They all told in. The women who adopted these methods learnt a useful lesson, and the members of the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee have done well to adopt this policy in connection with the unworthy and tyrannical Press Boycott of Nurses' Opinions on their own affairs. On December 1st we wrote editorially on "The British Women's Hospital Committee and the Subjugation of the Nursing Profession," referring briefly to the discussion which had taken place between the organized Nurses' Societies and the British Women's Hospital Committee, on the appeal by the latter for charity in the name of the Nation's Nurses during the war. We emphasised the fact that the appeal was supported by columns and columns of advertisements in the leading newspapers, and that these papers had refused or had failed to insert any of the letters addressed to them from the "Nation's Nurses" on their own professional affairs!

An unworthy Press Boycott.

Failing to get a hearing in the subsidised press, members of the Trained Nurses' Protection Committee offered to the public reprints of the article aforesaid outside the Queen's Hall last Saturday afternoon, where a concert was being held in support of the Nation's Fund for Nurses. This of course they had a perfect right to do, and the following report of what took place is highly significant, and should be taken to heart by every nurse who has a vestige of self-respect.

Some of our most earnest Registrationists were on duty at Queen's Hall, and quietly gave away a large number of leaflets, when a lady (we will call her Patrons), evidently in a violent temper, attacked the nurses and demanded:—

"Are those Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's leaflets?"

Nurse: "If you take one and read it, you will see what it is about."

Patrons: "What is your name and address?"

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