

the Agreement, they took immediate steps to obtain from Parliament an Act for the Registration of Trained Nurses. The first official Register under the Bill would be identical with the joint Roll of Membership of the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd.

It is also stated that the Council has devoted anxious consideration to the claims of various Poor Law Associations on behalf of Nurses trained in Poor Law Institutions, and that it is certain no scheme for the State Registration of Nurses would be fair unless a place were found in it on equitable terms for those who constitute so large and important a section of the Nursing Profession.

It is announced that in the coming year, so far as the preoccupations of the war will permit, attention will be directed to the difficult questions which arise when it is sought to translate into practical regulations and detailed syllabuses the ideals contained in such phrases as the uniform curriculum, and the one-portal system of examination, and that if a Supplemental Charter is granted the College as a "Company limited by guarantee" will cease to exist, and the new Royal British College of Nursing will take its place; a scheme will have to be formulated and laid before the Privy Council to provide for the due representation of the nurses on the first elected Council of the Royal College.

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

The audited accounts of the College of Nursing, Ltd., cover the period from its incorporation on March 27th, 1916, to March 31st, 1917. During this period 2,553 nurses were elected members of the College. The Balance Sheet shows that there is an excess of income over expenditure of £843 17s. 8d., and that out of the donations received for capital purposes £2,470 was invested in the 5 per cent. War Loan.

The thanks of the College are tendered to Mr. W. Boyton, M.P., for the loan of two rooms at No. 9, Vere Street, free of all rent and rates, lighting and heating, and to Colonel Cantlie, of the College of Ambulance, for the loan of two rooms at No. 3, Vere Street, free of rates, rent, and lighting.

A grant of £300 was made to the Scottish Board for expenses.

The report concludes with the statement that the financial position of the College may be considered satisfactory.

#### THE SPEECH OF THE CHAIRMAN.

The speech of the Chairman of the Company in moving the adoption of the Report was mainly a comment on its Clauses.

The members, he said, would see from the work of the College set out in the Annual Report that it had made a good start. It was really only at the beginning of its work. It had formed several sub-committees, but it had not got to very serious work with them except with the Registration Sub-Committee; they had had a good deal to do with the regulation of business procedure and this

tedious work had got far forward. They had made no very great effort to enrol nurses, as the amalgamation with the Royal British Nurses' Association was in a fair way of becoming complete, so that they might shortly have to replace the present certificates with those of the Royal British College of Nursing. After that they would make a big effort.

In regard to State Registration, he desired to make the position clear, but his experience during the last eighteen months was that it was difficult to make any remarks in public or private which might not be misrepresented.

From the very beginning the College had supported State Registration of Nurses. He believed that in his first letter he had expressed a doubt as to there being any unanimous feeling in favour of any system of State Registration of Nurses, but he had soon learned that there was a universal demand for it, and the College had always worked on the understanding that State Registration was one of the main objectives. He gave that assurance if anyone doubted, or pretended to doubt, that the College of Nursing was perfectly whole hearted for State Registration, and he was confident that they would get it.

They got on so well, and so far that at the last Conference with the Central Committee, he thought and everyone else thought, that it was well within reach. They had separated over a point of no particular importance.

The point on which the Central Committee had separated—or made their reason for separating—was a very simple one. They had agreed that the Central Committee should have the power to appoint a certain number of representatives on the Provisional Nursing Council, and the College of Nursing were to have the same number. They held, and he still held it very advisable that the names of the members should be given in the Bill. The Provisional Council would hold office for two years, and would frame the Rules and Regulations for the government of the Nursing Profession. It was very important, therefore, that nurses should know who were to govern them during those first two years.

The second reason was that if you did not insert the names of individuals you would have to put in the names of Societies, and if the names of the Central Committee and the College of Nursing were inserted in the Bill you were perfectly certain to get a number of smaller bodies springing up and wanting representation. Therefore he had thought, and still thought, that it was best to name individuals straightforwardly in the Bill. But it was not a point that there was any necessity to split over. Those who really wished for State Registration were not going to be led aside by a difference on that point. It was a matter of expediency, and nothing else.

Mr. Staley said he had happened by chance to see Major Chapple, and told him the position of the College of Nursing, which always had been, and always was ready and willing to discuss with others their Nurses' Registration Bill.

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