

The R.B.N.A. had been founded years ago, with nearly the same objects as the College of Nursing, and it seemed desirable that they should combine. They had been met in the most friendly way by the R.B.N.A., and at a general meeting of its members the resolution to amalgamate was agreed to.

The members of the College had probably seen in the press that they had had meetings with the representatives of two Poor Law Associations, and they would have gathered from the reports in the Poor Law papers that these representatives were not altogether pleased with them.

They recognised that a large number of Poor Law Institutions came into the category of schools recognised by the College of Nursing, and the nurses trained there were obviously entitled to representation on the Council of the College.

There were three representatives of Poor Law nurses on the Council of the College, and their proper representation, according to the number at present on the Register, would be four instead of three.

It had been said they had changed their opinion but no human being could have sat down two years ago and evolved a complete scheme. Sometimes even nurses did not realise the magnitude of their task. Here was a great profession with no organisation. They began rather in the same way as this country began when it entered into the war, and they were at once faced with questions of the greatest importance. If, said Mr. Stanley, in conclusion, you think we have made a good beginning, we ask you to continue your support, and to spread amongst your colleagues the aims and objects of the College of Nursing.

He moved the adoption of the report.

This was seconded by Miss Musson, who said that whenever she had spoken in that room it had always been on the subject of Nurses' Registration. Another object before the College was the levelling up of Nursing Education. It was of great importance for nurses to take an interest in their own affairs and not always to thrust the Matrons forward.

Discussion was invited, but no one responded. A few anonymous questions were handed up in writing.

Question (from a member at the First London General Hospital): Would it not be possible for a certain number of the Council to retire immediately?

Answer (by the Chairman): The Council will be set up by Parliament, and Parliament will make such regulations as it thinks fit.

Question: Are nurses holding certificates as Children's Nurses to be on the same Roll as those with General Training?

Answer: The College is setting out to form a Roll of Nurses with general training, the big register, the register of trained nurses. Whether Supplementary Registers will be formed afterwards is a question for the future.

Question: Will it be fair to have a Supplemen-

tary Register of Children's Nurses unless there can be some protection for the Trained Nurse?

Answer: Once get State Registration and the recognition of the General Register by Parliament, other things will fall into line. The first thing is to safeguard the position of the Trained Nurses.

Question: There is a strong feeling among Poor Law Nurses that there should be more representatives of Poor Law Nurses on the Council.

Answer: Mr. Stanley said this was a statement rather than a question. He had already said that there were three ladies representing Poor Law nurses on the Council. The representation due to them was four.

Question: Many nurses are anxious that the standard shall not be lowered. Is this at all likely to happen? Some nurses think admission to the Register of the College already too easy.

Answer: Mr. Stanley replied: I do not think there is any danger of the standard being lowered by the College.

Question: Is it not possible to arrive at a reasonable agreement with the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses?

Answer: The College did everything in its power to get agreement with the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. As they chose to break off negotiations it is for them to ask for their resumption. I believe if we lose this opportunity we may not have another opportunity for years. After the war the Nursing Profession will find itself up against considerable difficulties. I believe strongly if we combined now we should get these people—some of whom, I am afraid, are working rather to serve their own selfish ends—to combine with us and go forward with an agreed Bill and I believe we should get it within a short space of time. It is absolutely impossible to negotiate with people who, while agreeing to negotiate, and professing to work with you, are openly and secretly doing their absolute best to damage the people with whom they pretend to be working.

In reply to a further question Mr. Stanley said that the minute a nurse was on the Register she would never be asked where she was trained. Why should the question of the Poor Law Training of Nurses arise at all? If nurses were trained in a satisfactory training school those nurses seldom had any connection with the Poor Law Officers' Association.

The Report, including the Hon. Treasurer's Balance Sheet, was received and adopted.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman. This was seconded by Miss Hogg, Matron of Guy's Hospital. In reply, the Chairman expressed his belief in the future of the College, but said that it was a pleasure to receive encouragement on the way.

REMARKS.

In annotating the Report and Chairman's speech, we would emphasise our regret that it assumes that the nursing profession was absolutely unorganised until the scheme for the College was

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