

Cox-Davies about the formation of the College of Nursing, Ltd. She should like to point out, however, that Sir Arthur Stanley had entirely ignored *all* the societies representing nurses when he began to form the College, and it was only when these societies made their wishes clear that he included State Registration in his scheme. She then read out the names of all the societies whose representatives form the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, including the British Medical Association, and whom they had heard from. Miss Cox-Davies Sir Arthur Stanley thought it wiser to ignore, and asked the Chairman if he thought medical men would have consented to allow themselves to be organized and governed by a Limited Company.

Passing on to the need of a charitable fund for nurses, Miss Cancellor said she did not deny for one instant there were cases needing help among nurses; was not "subsidising by charity," however, one of the worst possible things for improving the economic position of nurses? Surely it was better to help them to their legal status, which would improve their whole position.

She said she knew it was difficult for people not actually in the profession to understand all the points of difference, and she expressed surprise that anyone connected with the teaching profession, which had had such a fight to improve its own position, should take up the Nurses' cause without thoroughly going into the matter. If the Nurses' Unions had been numerically as strong as the National Union of Teachers, she thought they would be in a very different position to-day. She also asked if Mrs. Alderton could tell her why the B.W.H. Committee had not consulted the nurses' societies before starting the Fund.

Mrs. Alderton said she believed all heads of the profession had been consulted.

Miss Cancellor said she did not think this was the case, as the society to which she belonged had not, she thought, been consulted. She could not speak for the other societies. She begged that if Bath decided to help the Fund they would ask who were to benefit—all nurses, or only those who had joined the College?

Mrs. Alderton said *all trained* nurses would benefit; in reply to another question, she said the Fund would be administered by the College authorities.

Miss Terry, Matron of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, said what nurses wanted first was their own Bill for State Registration, and their position put on a proper footing; at present they were classed, under the Insurance Act, with domestic servants. She thought if a Fund were raised in Bath for Nurses, it should be given to one of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest.

Several questions were asked, and it was pointed out that there were funds to help nurses; a Benevolent Fund in connection with the "Pension Fund" and the "Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund" were mentioned.

Mrs. Alderton said she did not think it would

be possible to ear-mark the Bath Fund for any special object; but she was not sure. It was decided to write to the B.W.H. Committee, and get it in "black and white" that all nurses could benefit under the Fund before moving further in the matter.

Miss Cancellor thanked the Chairman for the very fair and open-minded way the meeting had been conducted, and said though the points of difference between the two points of view might seem small, they were very vital.

The nurses owe a debt of gratitude to the Mayoress of Bath, Mrs. Preston King, and Mrs. Begg.

The British Women's Hospitals' Committee is anxious that an appeal for the Nation's Fund for Nurses should be made in Bath, and the Mayoress (Mrs. Preston King) proposed that the wives of the medical profession should give an "At Home," at which Mr. Martin Harvey and others have offered to speak. After this proposal was made, however, it was found that there was considerable difference of opinion among nurses as to the Fund, and the Mayoress not wishing to lend her support to an object of a controversial character a drawing-room meeting was summoned by Mrs. Begg, who is doing the secretarial work for the Mayoress.

STATE REGISTRATION OVERSEAS.

As at home, attempts are being made both in Victoria and in South Africa to settle the Nurses' Registration question, during the absence of thousands of trained nurses abroad on Military Service.

In Victoria, in spite of the representations of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association that nurses should be represented on the proposed Nurses' Board, Mr. McLeod, Chief Secretary, has declined to agree to an amendment to this effect. The nurses may be on the Board of Examiners, but not on their Governing Body, which is one chiefly composed of medical men who are already employed by the Government. As the Bill provides for drastic disciplinary powers by the misnamed "Nurses' Board" by members of an interdependent profession whose economic interests may not always coincide with those of the nurses, it appears incredible that the enfranchised nurses of Victoria will tamely submit to such a dangerous legal authority being set up by Parliament. As we always maintain, we want just laws for freewomen, and not penalising legislation for serfs.

REGISTRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The *South African Nursing Record* takes exception to our comment in our issue of October 6th, that the Medical and Pharmacy Bill in the South African Union fails to give any representation to trained nurses, and no doubt when those who are on active service return from war, work they

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)