

men, one Superintendent and one Assistant Matron. Not one Sister or nurse.

‡ The canny Scottish Section renominates one Matron and two doctors, and only nominates one new Superintendent. Not one Sister or Nurse.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report approves the charitable appeal of the British Women's Hospital Committee, and naively adds: "The fund it is hoped will so establish the organisation of the Nursing Profession that it shall in the future be in a sound economic position." The Consultative Committee, composed for the most part of lay employers of nurses, are apparently busy defining their professional educational curriculum, and incidentally their economic conditions.

The failure to amalgamate with the Royal British Nurses' Association—practically to absorb the Nurses' Royal Charter—is given as the reason for the non-presentation to Parliament of the College Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. This is not fair. The reason a Bill has not been presented is that Parliament is far too busy, or ought to be, "getting on with the war" to consider controversial Bills for social legislation, and until the College Council realises that thousands of intelligent nurses, free, and independent from official hospital pressure, are determined to oppose any Bill calculated—as the College Bill is—to deprive them of self-determination, Parliament will not grant time for any such measure.

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The Report states in Clause 10: "Members will naturally be interested to learn what the course of negotiations has been with the Central Committee with a view of obtaining an agreed Bill to present to Parliament for the training and registration of Nurses. It will be remembered that they were broken off by the Central Committee in July, 1916, the principal point at issue being the setting out in the Bill of the names of the various bodies, including the Organised Societies of Nurses, which should nominate the Provisional Council."

This is a very misleading statement.

The College Council broke its pledged agreement and the Central Committee frankly told the College Council that unless provision was made in the Bill for keeping its agreement, negotiations would be broken off, and they were.

The provisions the Central Committee intends to support in any Bill to which it agrees, are as follows:—

1. An independent Statutory General Nursing Council to regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration.
2. Direct Representation of the Nursing Profession on the General Nursing Council, and the insertion in the Bill of the authorities empowered to nominate the Council and the number of persons to be nominated.
3. A three years' term of grace, after the passing of the Act, for the registration of nurses in practice—who hold a certificate of training, or

produce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council—without further examination.

4. The provision at the expiration of the said term of grace that a nurse must have had not less than three years' training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the wards of a hospital, or of hospitals, approved by the Council, and that such person must have passed such examination as the Council may prescribe.

THE PRESENT POSITION.

The Report continues: "At the beginning of last July, Sir Arthur Stanley informed Major Chapple, who is in Parliamentary charge of the Central Committee's Bill, that the Council was prepared to concede this point (that a nominated council of 45 irresponsible persons should form the Provisional Governing Body of the Nursing Profession and frame the Rules and Regulations they were to obey), and it was, therefore, hoped that the Central Committee would reopen negotiations. This, however, has not been done, but lately Sir Arthur Stanley and Major Chapple have been in communication with each other, so as to arrive, if possible, at a Bill which, agreed between themselves, will be recommended for acceptance by the Council of the College, and the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses respectively. Members may rely upon the Council to give very careful scrutiny to the terms of the Bill, and in particular to the essential points of safeguarding the position of the members of the College upon the Legal Register, and of setting out that not fewer than two-thirds of its General Nursing Council shall be elected by the nurses on the Register." And members of the Nursing Profession, as a whole, may rely that the Central Committee will safeguard its interests as such, and will certainly agree to no Bill which gives preferential treatment to members of the College, over the thousands of well-trained nurses who decline to join it, and submit to its present lay control and autocratic provisions.

THE FIFTH DRAFT OF THE COLLEGE BILL.

We are informed that the Fifth Draft of the College Bill, to which the Report alludes, does not include several vital principles suggested by Major Chapple, and that a sixth Draft is under consideration. The Fifth Draft is before us, in our opinion a very unsatisfactory measure; but, before criticising it, it will be well to wait and see if in No. 6, the Council of the College intend to incorporate the suggestions made by Major Chapple.

NO PRIVILEGE, NO MONOPOLY.

One thing is imperative. Absolute impartiality during the term of grace, in the treatment of all nurses, whether affiliated members of the Central Committee, or the College, or any other organization. We want no privilege, and will have no monopoly by any one organization whatever. We take our stand on that. Justice and fair play for one and all. Parliament must see to that.

ORGANIZATION BEGINS AT HOME.

It is rumoured that the College will have a conference on June 6th and 7th. Our advice to

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