

the work accomplished by the National Union of Trained Nurses, and pointed out that it stood for State Registration as a component part of the Central Committee. It had arranged post-graduate courses from time to time, demonstrations, and lectures; had provided legal advice, and had published leaflets, &c., on nursing subjects of national importance. When war broke out it was the only association in a position to deal with the unattached nurses, and over 3,000 had passed through their War Register.

She then explained the points of difference between the Bill of the Central Committee for State Registration and that of the College for Nursing (Draft 5), and the essential principles for which the Central Committee was contending:— I, Three years' training in the wards of a hospital or hospitals; II, One-portal examination; III, Direct representation of nurses on their governing bodies. Although the second of these had been unconditionally included in the College Bill, the other two were not sufficiently defined to form a satisfactory guarantee. Another point in which the Societies for State Registration were not in agreement with the College was the formation of Supplemental Registers of Specialists, which they felt would be a distinct menace to the status of the trained nurse with three years' general training.

Miss Cowlin, the Assistant Secretary of the College of Nursing, then spoke for the College of Nursing. She gave a short sketch of its origin and said that all the nursing societies were needed, and had done a fair share of organising work, and it was much to be regretted that they could not all work hand-in-hand. The College had no desire to work independently. It was natural and wise to turn to the nurse educators, who, without organised help, had surmounted untold difficulties in improving and upholding the standard of training, to form the first Provisional Council. The trained nurses on the Register to the number of 8,800 were now recording votes for their own representatives, and if they wished in three years' time the Council could be entirely composed of nurses fresh from their training schools. The conditions of membership, &c., now laid down were for the period of grace only; later, newer and higher standards would be set up. The College hopes to do more for nurses than they could do for themselves, and already alterations had been made in some hospitals to bring them up to the College standard. It also proposed among other things, to establish Scholarships, to give training in administrative work, to qualify nurses for the post of Sister Tutor, to make educative grants to the smaller hospitals, to provide legal advice, and to grant aid to necessitous nurses.

An interesting discussion then followed, in which were brought out the subjects of Supplemental Registers, the representation of Hospital Governors on the Committee of the College of Nursing, the definition of a recognised "training school," and the relation of the proposed Ministry of Health to State Registration.

A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Miss Vicar, Lady Superintendent of the Bradford Nursing Institute, and seconded by Miss Moggach. Miss Hare, the Matron of the Clayton Poor Law Infirmary, then thanked the President and members of the League for their kindness in giving non-members the opportunity of taking part in such an interesting occasion.

This most instructive and successful meeting was terminated by a social gathering and War Tea, and the Hospital was thrown open to inspection by the visitors.

No one apparently alluded to the autocratic Constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., or that the College Bill incorporates this Constitution, which practically provides for a Trades Union of Employers through the Consultative Committee of hospital managers, Poor Law Guardians, and other sections of the laity.

It is this Constitution to which the Nurse Educators who compose the Nominated Council of the College have agreed—some in ignorance, no doubt, and others in arrogance.

The independent organisations of trained nurses will never consent to be controlled by this particular Constitution.

ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, held at the Mansion House on May 29th, when the Lord Mayor presided, until compelled to leave to fulfil an important engagement, was a well-attended and interesting gathering. In our last issue we gave the salient points from the report. The Dean of Windsor, in a very sympathetic speech, spoke of the need of recreation for all nurses, and especially for those engaged in caring for the insane. Dr. Charles Mercier, who moved the adoption of the report, painted the life of those who care for the insane in very sombre colours, and their charges as unlovable detestable folk, whose characteristics vary from impish mischievousness to deep malignity.

The seconder, Major the Rev. F. E. Lipson, spoke of their sympathy, toleration and self-abnegation. He thought no sacrifice was greater than that of those who gave ceaseless attention to the mentally suffering, and spoke of the loss sustained by the asylum world in the death of Dr. Seward, the late Superintendent of Colney Hatch Asylum, who, he said, well understood the peculiar psychology of the Jewish patients. He thought no one who had worked in this world would be more assured of a place on the right hand of the Heavenly Father than those who cared sympathetically for the mentally afflicted.

Sir Frederick Needham, M.D., member of the Board of Control, moved the re-election of Sir John Jardine as President, and this was seconded by Sir George Savage, who referred to the disadvantageous position of asylum-trained nurses in applying for the higher posts, for which training in

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