

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held in the Rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on Thursday, June 20th. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair, and she was supported on the platform by Major Chapple, M.P., Miss Heather-Bigg, Miss H. L. Pearse, and Miss Carrie M. Hall, R.N., Superintendent of Nurses, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, U.S.A., Chief Nurse in Great Britain of the American Red Cross Nursing Service.

VERY DEEP GRIEF AND INDIGNATION.

On calling the meeting to order Mrs. Fenwick said:—"Before our business meeting opens I feel sure those assembled here to-day will wish to record, by a rising vote, their very deep grief and indignation at the manner in which our very dear Sisters have been done to death, on land and sea, by a barbarous and implacable foe, and to express sympathy with the friends and relations of these heroic women, who have died for their country. We may, whilst deploring the sacrifice, envy the glory of their passing."

Those present rose, and the vote was carried in silence.

The Notice convening the Meeting and the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read by Miss M. Breay, Hon. Secretary, and were confirmed.

The President then presented the Annual Report and Financial Statement.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1918.

May 1st, 1917—April 30th, 1918.

In presenting the sixteenth Annual Report of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, we have again to emphasise that the necessity for the enactment of an Act of Parliament providing for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, on the principles advocated by this Society, and incorporated in the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Central Committee in charge of Major Chapple, M.P., was never more urgent than at the present time.

We hear much of the nation's gratitude to nurses, of its desire to present them with a tribute. The best tribute that can be given to professional nurses is to give them justice, and that Parliament should pass the long overdue measure for their legal registration, by which, as in other professions, the skilled worker will be differentiated from the unskilled and the amateur, and be entrusted with self-government. (Applause.)

The presence in this country of many registered nurses from South Africa, New Zealand, and the United States of America, affords practical demonstration that, in widely distant parts of the world, and under diverse conditions, the organisation of nursing education, and nurses, is being developed on a foundation of State Registration, and that a high type of nurse is the result. The trained nurses of the United Kingdom claim the right to take their place, as some of their overseas sisters have done, on a professional register issued under the authority of the State, with the protected title of "Registered Nurse."

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee has met seven times and has transacted a large amount of business.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The delegates of this Society have attended three meetings of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and two of its Executive Committee. Certain alterations have been incorporated in the Nurses' Registration Bill promoted by the Committee. Under Clause IV, "Constitution and Appointment of Council," the subsection (now subsection 2) dealing with the Provisional Council has been redrafted. This Council is set out in its entirety, which adds to the clearness of the Clause. The constituent societies of nurses, grouped in the Central Committee, from which ten delegates on to the Provisional Council are to be appointed, are now mentioned by name, and the Clause (Clause f) giving representation to the College of Nursing, Ltd., has now been replaced by two clauses, the first providing for the representation of the Royal British Nurses Association on the Provisional Council by two persons—one a registered medical practitioner and one a nurse—and the second giving representation to the College of Nursing, Ltd., through two persons, one of whom shall be a nurse.

It is proposed to suggest that provision shall be made to increase the representation of male and mental nurses on the Permanent Council, to make the principle of reciprocal training more distinct, and to provide for the method of nomination for election of Members on the General Nursing Council.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

The following is a brief summary of the history of the Nurses' Registration Bill, since it has been in charge of Major Chapple, and of the negotiations which have taken place between the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and the College of Nursing, Ltd.

1904.—First Nurses' Registration Bill, which was drafted by this Society, passed by the House of Lords, 1908.

1914.—The Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Central Committee introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Chapple under the ten minutes rule, leave to bring in the Bill was given by a majority of 229.

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