

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

A meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses was held in the Council Chamber, 429, Strand, W.C., by the kind permission of the British Medical Association, on Friday, January 18th.

It was reported by the Hon. Secretaries that further negotiations between representatives of the Committee and the College of Nursing, Ltd., had not materialised.

RESIGNATION OF HON. TREASURER.

The resignation of Mr. Comyns Berkeley, the Hon. Treasurer, was received and accepted.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. TREASURER.

Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, F.R.C.S., M.C. (Cantab.), was unanimously elected Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Paterson was present as a delegate from the Royal British Nurses' Association, and his acceptance of office met with warm applause from the representatives of the Nurses' Organizations.

NEW DELEGATES.

The following nominations from constituent Societies were reported:—

Royal British Nurses' Association.—Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, Medical Hon. Secretary, R.B.N.A.

Fever Nurses' Association.—Miss Villiers, Matron, South-Western Hospital, Stockwell, and Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Matron, Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, N., in place of Miss Bann, resigned, and Miss Morgan (Mrs. Macdonald), resigned on marriage.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL.

It was agreed to refer suggestions from the Executive Committee for alterations in the Nurses' Registration Bill, to the delegates, to be considered at an early date by the Central Committee.

THE SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, 17th inst. The President, who was in the chair, made a short report on the State Registration movement.

The agenda for the Central Committee meeting was considered and certain suggestions were sent forward to the Committee, and the delegates were instructed how to vote on a resolution which was down for consideration.

A Parliamentary policy was considered and agreed upon, the members realising with a deep sense of gratification that, as enfranchised citizens, their long ignored petition for State organization could not be further evaded.

Miss M. Breay was elected to act as the representative of the Society at the Round Table Conference of Nurses' Organizations, convened by the Royal British Nurses' Association on February 5th. Thirty new members were elected.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED.

The Society intends to enter on a very active campaign in support of an Independent Governing Body through a Nurses' Registration Bill, and funds are urgently needed in support of propaganda. Donations from 1s. upwards will be gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

FREE DISCUSSION IN THE "YORKSHIRE POST."

In a well-considered and logical reply to the letter which appeared in the *Yorkshire Post*, signed by Miss Sparshott, Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Miss Vincent, Royal Infirmary, Leicester, Miss Eden, owing to her logical arguments, scores heavily over her opponents.

Miss Eden writes:—

"Permit me to answer some of the points which Miss Sparshott and Miss Vincent have raised. I am sure that it is impossible to make matters clear to the promoters of the College. The difference is a difference of mentality. Many people are quite unable to grasp the modern standpoint of professional organisation, whilst others have not time to devote to the matter. Most of your readers will, however, readily enter into our point of view.

Two of the main features of democratic organisation are:—(1) The recognition of the efforts of the workers to organise themselves; (2) the principle of representation—or the right of these societies of workers to appoint representatives on their governing body, which representatives shall be responsible to them, and be replaceable by them. Once these principles are grasped most arguments assume their proper value. For instance, the College writer states that I over-estimate the importance of the nursing societies. This is impossible, for they represent the most important internal development of a profession, viz., the effort towards intelligent self-government. Even if the effort were a tiny one—and everything must have a beginning—it would be our duty to foster it with all the care and chivalry in our nature. As a matter of fact, in this case it showed itself possessed of persistence, strength, ability, and courage.

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