

this hospital will enter for examinations conducted by the Statutory Authority set up by that Bill. In the event of the Bill not passing into law, the nurses of this hospital will have the option of entering for the examinations of the College of Nursing, Ltd. The Board of Governors will retain the final qualifying examination of the hospital as at present conducted until such time as they deem it advisable in the interest of the nurses and the public that such examinations should be abrogated."

LIEUT.-COL. DEANE, Royal Victoria Hosp., Belfast:—

"Re State Registration of Trained Nurses: In reply to your letter of 13th inst. on the above subject, I beg to inform you that the matter you allude to has not been considered by my Committee, and as I do not know whether the report you have heard is correct or not, I am sorry I cannot give you any information about it."

No replies have been received from the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool; the Royal Infirmary and the General Hospital, Bristol; the General Hospital, Nottingham; the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester; the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital; the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; the Richmond Hospital; the Meath Hospital; and Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin.

The Secretary-Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital states: "Our nurses' examinations for the Hospital's certificate of training are conducted by the teachers of our own Training School." The enquiry of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses was, however, designed to ascertain the procedure in the future.

When the letter of the Society was sent out in May last, the then draft of the College of Nursing's Registration Bill compelled registered nurses to become members of the College, and to subscribe to its autocratic constitution as a condition of registration.

Some slight modification has been introduced into the seventh draft of its Nurses' Registration Bill, which does not make it compulsory for nurses to become members of the College in order to be registered under the Act, but the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College are still to remain "in full force and effect."

Our contention is that the examination and registration of Trained Nurses should be conducted by an entirely independent body, under the authority of the State, and not by a Union of persons who train and employ nurses.

UNJUSTIFIABLE PRESSURE.

From all sides we hear of pressure being brought to bear by Matrons upon their young nurses to join the College of Nursing. They are handed application forms and told to fill them in, and, as far as we can gather, the Constitution of the College is never mentioned; so these inexperienced young nurses sign a form to agree to Rules and Regulations—mainly framed by laymen—which they have never seen.

This unjustifiable pressure is for the second time

being brought to bear upon the members of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League, to whom a printed letter is being sent, signed by S. A. Swift (past Matron), L. V. Haughton (past Matron), M. Hogg (Matron), and F. A. Sheldon (Lady Superintendent of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' Institution), from which the document is addressed. With the letter are included an Application Form, and Reasons for joining the College, but not a copy of its Constitution.

The gist of the letter is practically a demand upon the part of Guy's officials nominated on to the College Council, that an electorate should be provided amongst the nurses of the League. It is written:—"On the Council of the College, Guy's ought to be well represented amongst other hospitals, and the votes of Guy's nurses are needed to place their representatives there."

It is well known that the extremely autocratic Constitution of the College, which practically suppresses all professional liberty of the nursing profession as a whole, emanated from the reactionary policy of Sir Cooper Perry, the Medical Superintendent, and Miss Sarah Swift, the Matron of Guy's Hospital in 1905, when this Constitution was submitted to the Board of Trade, as suitable for a governing body for free British women, and was defeated by the progressive and conscientious supporters of the State Registration movement.

A special meeting of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to consider the formation of a London Centre, is to be held at the College of Ambulance, 6, Vere Street, on Wednesday, September 25th, at 7 p.m. Let us hope an opportunity will be afforded the members of discussing its constitution, and the Bill for their registration promoted by the College. No such discussion has, so far, been arranged for on these vital matters.

A local centre has been formed at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRONS.

Cray Valley Hospital, St. Mary Cray.—Miss Jessie D. Milner has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Hampstead General Hospital and the North-West London Hospital, and has been Sister of the Private Wing in the former institution, Sister at the King George Hospital, Stamford Street, as a member of Q.A.I.M.N.S.R., and Home and Housekeeping Sister at the Hampstead General Hospital.

Elder Cottage Hospital, Govan, Glasgow.—Miss Mary Taylor has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and has held an appointment at the Military Hospital, York.

SUPERINTENDENT SISTER.

Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey.—Mrs. Hilda M. Smerdon (*née* White) has been appointed Superintendent Sister. She was trained at the Evelina Hospital and at King's College Hospital, and has been Theatre and Ward Sister at the former institution and elsewhere.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)