

Wales, Scotland and Ireland, as provided in the Central Committee's Bill, a form of legislation calculated to glorify the village pump. Parochialism was very undesirable in this connection, and might interfere with the nurses' personal liberty and economic independence.

RECIPROCAL TRAINING.

8. Further, there was no provision for reciprocal training to qualify for registration in the College Bill, by means of which the valuable clinical material in well-managed special hospitals could be co-ordinated and utilised, and nurses qualified for a wide field of professional usefulness, as in the Central Committee's Bill.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Mrs. Fenwick said that it was not reasonable to expect persons such as the members of the Central Committee, who had spent so much time in carefully considering these questions, to conscientiously support a Bill which omitted the fundamental principles which they considered vital.

The Central Committee, after a careful comparison of its own Bill and that of the College of Nursing, Ltd., had come to the conclusion that its own Bill was the better Bill, and had therefore formally invited the Council of the College of Nursing to support it, and help to get it through Parliament. (Applause.)

CLEAN-CUT PRINCIPLES.

The third speaker was MISS GLADYS LE GEYT, a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, who said that the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association had in their keeping the honour of their profession, and powers sufficient to annihilate any attempt to force unjust legislation upon them. We needed, to achieve our purpose:—(1) An ever-increasing membership; (2) clean-cut principles; and (3) a policy embodying the same. We could truthfully say we possessed these essentials, but our concern at the moment was to prove the soundness of our policy.

The Royal British Nurses' Association staunchly supported the principle of State Registration through its delegates on the Central Committee, and had given valuable assistance during the past eight years in drawing up and revising its Nurses' Registration Bill, which was ready for presentation to Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

She had by her a precious, thumb-marked copy of the Bill, and could vouch that not a paragraph of its contents had been hastily drawn up, or any Clause inserted without serious thought and judgment. Here also was her copy of the seventh draft of the Bill for Registration drawn up by the College of Nursing, Ltd., all crisp and fresh from the printer, and its contents ill devised and indiscriminately strung together, alien to the fundamental reasons which underlie our long-drawn-out struggle for registration, both for the public who employ trained nurses and the safeguarding of our own interests.

Miss Le Geyt then supported the demand of the Central Committee for an Independent Governing Body, untrammelled by any connection with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the College of Nursing, Ltd., or any other body. She said that the College offered Registration, without reserve, to every name on the Company's Books at the passing of the Act. The Register which we meant to acknowledge was one that would be formed after the passing of the Act, and in accordance with that Act. There should be no side entrance or back doors into the Nursing Profession, but the rights of all nurses eligible for registration should be equal.

She emphasised the provision in the College Bill that the first General Register under the Act should include, without further fee, the registered members of the College of Nursing, Ltd. This opened up an unpleasant vista for the rest of us, who, according to Clause 10 of the same Bill, would have to pay the General Nursing Council "such fee as may be prescribed by the Rules." We might therefore be expected to pay such sums as would adequately cover the expenses of the Register, while members of the College Company were to have the right to registration without further fee. What fair dealing could we look for at the hands of the College Council after such a Clause?

THE COLOSSAL FLAW.

From the trained nurse's point of view the colossal flaw in the College Bill was the loophole left for the introduction of Supplementary Registers, other than those of male and mental nurses; such a Clause would literally undo all the good that the title of "Registered Nurse" was to confer, and leave the public in as great a dilemma as to what constitutes a trained nurse as at the present time, and, by covering the title "Registered Nurse," would create appalling possibilities for fraudulent practice in nursing.

It was not sufficient to think of Registration from the academic and institutional standpoint only. We must bear in mind the relations in which we stood, and the duty we owed to the public who employed us, generally at a time of great crisis to themselves.

After touching on the question of the Provisional Council, and drawing attention to a new Clause in the College Bill in relation to the registration of deaths, Miss Le Geyt concluded: "I would venture to suggest to the supporters of the College that they intimate to their Council that they waste no more time drafting Registration Bills, but give proof of their sincerity by uniting with all speed in supporting the Registration Bill which is promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses." (Applause.)

DISCUSSION.

The CHAIRMAN then invited discussion, when PROFESSOR GLAISTER, of Glasgow, a member of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., said he had been associated with Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in drafting the Central Committee's Bill, and had

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