

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society took place on July 2nd at 431, Oxford Street, W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presided.

The Sixth and Seventh Drafts of the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd., were considered clause by clause.

The Committee recognised that the firm attitude of the Central Committee in maintaining the vital principles of just legislation in the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by it in 1910, has apparently convinced the College of Nursing, Ltd., that no agreement between the two Bills was possible until it recognised the determination of the State Registrationists to oppose any attempt to govern the Nursing Profession without adequate representation.

Thus, the College Council (the Nurses have never been consulted in meeting assembled) has inserted provisions in the recent drafts of its Bill;

(1) For the direct representation of the organised Nurses' Societies on the Provisional Council to frame the rules.

(2) For the *security* of representation of the Registered Nurses on the Permanent Council.

(3) For a term of three years' training and examination under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council after the three years' term of grace.

(1.) The Committee objected to the College of Nursing, Ltd., being incorporated in the Bill under its existing Memorandum and Articles of Association and empowered to govern the whole Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom, as it is a lay Corporation, and gives undue power of control to the Nurse-Training Schools over registered Nurses, for whom they are not financially responsible. The Committee claims for the Profession of Nursing an independent governing Body in the General Nursing Council, with no ultimate power and control behind it, such as the Bill secures for the College of Nursing, Ltd.

(2) The Committee also strongly deprecates the undermining of the status of the General Register of three-years' trained general nurses by the Clause in the College Bill, providing for the institution of Supplementary Registers of Specialists—such as Children's Nurses, Fever Nurses, Tuberculosis Nurses, Maternity Nurses, &c.—as such registers would be compiled for the benefit of institutions and employers, and not of nurses themselves, who, semi-trained, would be ineligible for promotion to the best work and pay.

(3.) The Committee also took exception to preferential treatment for nurses on the register of the College of Nursing when a Bill becomes law. It agreed that all trained Nurses should have equal rights to registration during the term of grace.

The Committee intends to uphold these vital principles.

The Committee received with deep regret the resignation of Miss Elinor Pell-Smith, who had been the delegate of the Royal Infirmary Leicester Nurses' League for a number of years.

It was proposed from the Chair that a sincere vote of thanks be sent to Miss Pell-Smith, thanking her for her very valuable services during the long time she had been on the Committee, and expressing the regret of the Committee in losing her most kind help. This was unanimously agreed to.

Miss Irene Sumner, who had been appointed to represent the Royal Infirmary Leicester Nurses' League, was present, and received a cordial welcome.

New members were elected.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

LONDON HOSPITAL NURSES.

Major Chapple, M.P., has given notice in the House of Commons of the following motion:—

"That the system carried on at the London Hospital, under which nurses are taken from their training in the wards at the end of their second year, sent out to attend private cases, paid at the rate of 13s. per week while they receive £2 2s., the hospital appropriating the difference of 29s. per week earned by them, is adopted by no other great hospital in Britain, gravely interferes with the professional training in the wards of such nurses during their third and most important year, and is a cruel exploitation of women for the sake of pecuniary gain, and this House calls upon the Government to introduce legislation to remedy the abuse."

Lord Knutsford has again written to the *Times* denying the truth of Major Chapple's statements, and Sir Henry Burdett has cast his sucking dove attitude, and now states that Lord Knutsford's reply to his letter "is mere camouflage."

But whilst these well-known exploiters of the nursing profession fly at one another's throats, the nurses themselves either remain dumb, or their opinions are excluded from the discussion as usual.

The nursing profession at large are somewhat out of patience with London Hospital nurses. They are not children, and it is time they realised that, by accepting unjust conditions, they injure their colleagues as a whole: (1) by undermining the recognised nursing standard of three years' training; and (2) by

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