

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was held at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, February 21st. The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the chair.

THE REPORT. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

The President made a very encouraging Report *re* the Bill promoted by the Central Committee, which is in charge of Major Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., and which has been influentially backed by members of every Party in the House. The Government had taken all the time of the House usually allocated to private members' until March 31st, but members of the Society were placing their views, and the important principles incorporated in the Bill, before persons interested in the question.

A four-page Statement had been issued by the authority of the Central Committee, comparing the differences between its Bill and that promoted by the College of Nursing, Ltd., in which certain clauses were calculated to have a most injurious effect upon the evolution of the Nursing Profession.

Sir Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., had asked for a conference between themselves and the British Medical Association, in support of the College Bill. This conference had taken place between these two gentlemen and members of the B.M.A. The College of Nursing, Ltd., was not represented by any of the 22 matrons on the Council, or any nurse members.

THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A representative Deputation from the R.B.N.A. and its Affiliated Societies of Nurses had waited upon the President of the Local Government Board and had been courteously welcomed by Dr. Addison, who deputed Major the Hon. Waldorf Astor to receive the Deputation, which was introduced by Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, F.R.C.S., and a report of which had already appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. Suffice it to say that Major Astor listened with intelligent interest to the various speakers, and availed himself of their expert knowledge in reply to questions on the important subjects of nursing education and economics, through a system of State Registration in relation to National Health.

TRIBUTE FUND.

The appeal for a Tribute Fund in support of State Registration of Nurses had been generously responded to. The President pointed out that it was not only large subscriptions which were useful, but the small donations of 1s. and 2s. 6d. from those who could not afford more, as all the work of the Society was voluntary, every penny went direct in support of propaganda in the Nurses' cause, as incorporated in their Bill.

MEETING OF NURSES IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

It was agreed to hold a Meeting of Nurses in London in support of the Central Committee's Bill, and in opposition to objectionable provisions in the College of Nursing Bill, at the end of March.

WHAT INDEPENDENT NURSES STAND FOR AND WHAT THEY OBJECT TO.

The members of the Organised Nurses' Societies federated to the Central Committee stand—

1. For an independent Governing Body.

They object to the incorporation of any Nurses' Society—especially the College of Nursing, Ltd.—with its Memorandum and Articles of Association—in an Act of Parliament, acquiring control of the whole profession.

2. They claim representation on the initial General Nursing Council set up in a Bill, for the organised Nurses' Societies who have promoted the Registration movement, and that this initial Council shall frame the Rules and have time to form the electorate, of Registered nurses.

They object to the voluntary Register of the College of Nursing being recognised as the State Register, to the exclusion of thousands of trained nurses, who disapprove of the Constitution of the College Company, and who decline to become members of it.

3. They claim that State Registration will be valueless to three years' trained nurses on the General Register, and misleading to the public, unless it is protected by the one portal examination.

They object to the breach of faith of the College Company with its own members, and the three years' trained nurses, in attempting to acquire power by Act of Parliament to set up any number of Supplementary Registers of Specialists.

4. They claim that the profession of nursing should be organised on a sound economic basis, as it can be if trained nurses are paid the value of their services to the community.

They object to the method pursued by the College of Nursing of treating trained nurses *in forma pauperis*, and thus tampering with their economic status in the body politic.

Resolutions will be proposed at the Meeting in support of the principles of legislation approved, and in condemnation of the dangerous proposals advocated by employers who control the College of Nursing, Ltd.

NEW MEMBERS.

A substantial number of new members were elected.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

ON THE TAPIS.

It seems that everyone is now taking the trouble to study the Nursing question, and at every meeting it crops up. This is all to the good. No Air standard of health without highly skilled nursing.

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