

Dr. Crouch expressed the opinion that probationers in the future would have to rank as students. The young women who were going to be the nurses of to-morrow had not the slightest intention of going into hospitals under present conditions. Not the slightest.

DISCUSSION.

Discussion was not invited, although the purpose of a conference is presumably to confer, and permission to ask questions was somewhat grudgingly conceded by the chair, on demand.

Miss Beatrice Kent said she would like to correct an erroneous statement on the part of Miss Sparshott, namely, that with the help of the College of Nursing the Nurses' Registration Bill had got through its Second Reading. It was due to the work of the Central Committee which had drafted the Bill that it had passed its Second Reading.

In regard to the membership of the College which Miss Sparshott had placed at over 13,000, Miss Kent pointed out that it was by no means all voluntary, but nurses joined because pressure was put on them to do so by those in authority over them.

Some hospital committees, she believed, even paid the guineas for the nurses to join the College out of hospital funds—funds which had been subscribed for the benefit of the sick poor.

Miss Sparshott said that the Council of the College had asked all its supporters in the House to vote for the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill. She did not know if they would have stopped it if they had taken a different attitude. ("No.") She knew of two Committees which paid the guineas for their nurses to join the College of Nursing. She thought it very wrong.

Miss C. A. Little (Hull) asked: "In view of the fact that the demand for nurses probably exceeds the supply, cent. per cent., will Miss Sparshott tell us why the authorities of the College of Nursing, Ltd., have always encouraged the idea that nurses are a poverty-stricken body of workers and unable to assist in their own emancipation to the moderate extent of paying £2 2s. for State Registration. Was her question clear?"

Miss Sparshott was afraid it was not. Miss Little repeated it but no reply was received from Miss Sparshott beyond the fact that the College advocated a guinea fee and she was sure the nurses could not pay more. She further said that the Nurses' Associations did not appear to have done very much.

Miss Macdonald: "Then why not? Both ladies who have spoken have impressed upon us their great desire that nurses should take a share in the management of their profession. Which of the organisations built up by the nurses have they ever helped or supported? Our experience has been that the Matrons of the training schools have continually opposed every effort on the part of the independent nurses to organise and no society has felt this opposition more than the Association to which I presume Miss Little referred—the Royal British Nurses' Association. And why? Because in that Nurses'

Association, incorporated by the Crown, the governors of the nurses see a future potential antagonist. They know that if nurses were allowed to understand the powers that lie in the Charter, every working nurse in England would come into the Corporation and then only one thing could happen—nurses would join it for the purpose—that Association would be made to speak up for hours in line with those of other women workers, for salaries equivalent to those which other professional women have and for education dictated, not by the convenience of the schools, but by the needs of the nurses. Moreover, it is the fault of those who ought to have had the interests of the nurses most greatly at heart that State Registration is too late to save the nurses of to-day. Had the Hospital Committees and the Matrons not opposed the Bill we might have had State Registration in the early years when the movement just began.

Miss Rundle said that in the past nurses had suffered from inferior teaching from tired Home Sisters, Sisters and Matrons, but somehow they got through.

Other members of the audience were waiting for an opportunity to speak, but the Chairman rose and closed the meeting.

OVERHEARD IN THE HALL.

"Well you needn't grumble; the honours of the evening were with the supporters of the Central Committee's Bill."

COMING EVENTS.

May 3rd.—Meeting Executive Committee Society for the State Registration of Nurses. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will report progress of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 4 p.m.

May 3rd.—Association of Trained Nurses in Public Health Work. Conference, "Health Visiting in Connection with Tuberculosis Work." 10, Orchard Street, Portman Square, W. 3.30 p.m.

May 3rd.—Irish Nurses' Association Meeting. General Business and "To Consider an Article in *The Hospital*," of 26th ult.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

PSYCHIC PHENOMENA

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have read with considerable interest Miss Bielby's letter on psychic phenomena, and acknowledge the indebtedness of readers of our JOURNAL to her in giving names of books which deal with that aspect of the subject relating to "The Other Side of Death." At the same time I should hesitate to recommend its

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