

during the twenty-five years of its existence has been unbroken. On the other hand, if we are to understand that should any member of the Association of Hospital Matrons desire it to fight in support of professional principles, its officials would be 'extremely vexed and annoyed,' it is certain that, however pleasant the meetings of the new Association may be to the members socially, it will never be a force professionally until it develops a professional conscience and acts up to its dictation."

"I hope we won't get replies to our advertisements when we employ nurses at the rate of 1½d. an hour," said Mr. Craigie at the meeting of the Bermondsey Guardians.

"I understand that there is a shortage of about thirty nurses at Rotherhithe Infirmiry," he added. "People will not go there because they cannot get the necessary comfort."

We fear this is true. We hear of many Poor Law Infirmaries where there is a great shortage of the right sort of probationer. This is really sad. Alas! if the Nursing School Authorities had not obstructed State Registration with all their intolerant and jealous might for thirty years, how different things would have been for the sick by now. And just as all the work for this most urgently needed reform is within the grasp of the profession and the poor, the Employers' Union—the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its creatures—are out to wreck the Bill, in the hope of keeping the nursing profession to heel! A hopeless task, to judge from the spirit of the Protest Meeting in London last week. Thousands of nurses are out against any such Star Chamber.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Supplement of the R.B.N.A. will not appear this week, as so much space is necessary for a full report of the Nurses' Protest Meeting, over which Mr. Paterson presided, and at which Miss Isabel Macdonald made so touching a speech. It was agreed that the members would prefer that the limited space in this JOURNAL should be devoted to an ample report of so important a Meeting, for which it is to be regretted a much larger Hall was not engaged, as a large number of nurses could not get further than the lobby, and were unable to record their votes in support of the Resolutions which were passed with enthusiasm and applause.

A MEETING OF PROTEST.

TRAINED NURSES WILL NOT BE PUT UNDER THE DOMINATION OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

A meeting of Protest, summoned by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, supported by other self-governing societies, was held in the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Friday, May 23rd, at 5 p.m. The meeting was crowded far beyond the doors, and we fear that quite a hundred nurses and others were unable to find even standing room.

Mr. Herbert J. Paterson, F.R.C.S., M.C. (Cantab.) was in the chair, supported by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses; Miss M. Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland; Mrs. Campbell Thomson, Nurse Hon. Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association; and the movers and seconders of the Resolutions.

THE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING SPEECH.

The chairman prefaced his remarks by giving the meeting a most welcome message from the Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E., leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Commons, expressing his support of the Central Committee's Bill, and saying that he would do all in his power to further it in the House of Commons. Mr. Paterson further expressed his pleasure at the presence of so many representatives of the Press. What supporters of the Central Committee's Bill asked for was publicity.

The fight now going on over nurses' registration was a fight of money against right, economic independence against charity doles, social influence against justice. Nurses did not want lay control of the nursing profession. (Applause.)

Medical practitioners and nurses formed a composite link in the chain concerning the health of the nation; what concerned the health concerned the wealth of the nation.

The meeting was called to protest, in the interest of the public and the medical and nursing professions, against the line taken by the College of Nursing, Ltd., in its Nurses' Registration Bill, into the House of Lords. The protests were embodied in the resolutions to be proposed. He then called on Miss Nina Boyle to move the first resolution.

THE FIRST RESOLUTION.

This meeting protests against the action of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which, having failed to obtain the substitution of the Governing Body provided in its Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, for that defined in the Bill promoted by the Central Committee—as amended on the recommendation of the Local Government Board by Standing Committee E in the House of Commons—has introduced a rival Bill into the House of Lords, thereby attempting to confuse Parlia-

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