

Glasgow,

January 10th, 1919.

TO THE HON. NURSE SECRETARY, CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES, 431, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

Dear Madam,—At a Meeting of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, held in Edinburgh on January 9th, 1919, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"The Association for the Promotion of Registration of Nurses in Scotland having considered its relation to the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses, and to the College of Nursing, Ltd., and to the Bills which each of these bodies is promoting for presentation to Parliament, and having determined, after full consideration, in favour of the Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, does now withdraw from the Central Committee, and will use every effort to promote the College of Nursing Bill."

Yours truly,

D. J. MACKINTOSH,  
*Hon. Secretary.*

It remains for the supporters of the Central Committee's Bill to place the differences between the two Bills clearly before Members of Parliament and the public, and to invite their protection and support in their opposition to a form of legislation promoted by their employers (the College of Nursing, Ltd.), calculated to deprive trained nurses of economic independence, and well-defined professional status. See page ii inside Cover.

### THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

For the first time since its inception three years ago, when it drafted its first skeleton of a Nurses' Registration Bill, the College of Nursing, Ltd., has called an open meeting to discuss the Bill, which is to be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, on Thursday, January 23rd, at 8 p.m. The Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the College Council and Treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital, will be in the chair, and Miss Musson, R.R.C., Sir Cooper Perry, of Guy's, and Professor Glaister, of Glasgow, will be the speakers. It should prove an occasion of extreme interest to the Nursing Profession, and it is to be hoped that free discussion will not be suppressed as it was at Liverpool.

### TRUE TALES.

MOTHER TO AUNTIE: "When February comes I shall begin to give Joyce Virol again."

JOYCE (delightedly): "Yum, yum."

AUNTIE: "Why does she say 'Yum, yum'?"

MOTHER: "Oh, because she likes it so much, don't you, darling?"

JOYCE: "Rather. I hope February will come soon."

### THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN SCOTLAND.

#### "SITTING ON THE FENCE."

A tardy and long-overdue step was taken by the "Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland" at a meeting held in Edinburgh on January 9th, when Professor Glaister, who presided, moved that the Association now withdraw from the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and support the Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd. He thought the Association should no longer occupy a position which was indefinite and inconclusive.

Miss Gill, R.R.C., who seconded the motion, speaking from the nurses' point of view, said the College of Nursing was a democratic body of nurses, while the Central Committee was composed of eight different societies, some of which did not represent nurses at all. Large numbers of nurses were joining the College every week. Its objects were to organise and protect themselves and get some form of State Registration.

Sir James Agnew, M.D., asked what was to happen to the Scottish Association now that they were positively dissociating themselves from the Central Committee. He entirely agreed with the remarks of the Chairman and Miss Gill.

The Chairman said the Association would go on as before, and would watch the interests of nursing until their object was achieved.

Dr. R. McKenzie Johnston said it was evident that the Association had been sitting on the fence for a considerable time in regard to the bodies in London.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

We refer our readers to the correspondence in the previous columns. In our opinion, the position of the delegates from the Association under discussion on the Central Committee, was entirely untenable. Having accepted office on the College Council three years ago, they should have at once withdrawn from the Central Committee without pressure from that body. The position of the Hon. officers during the period has been anomalous in the extreme, as all private business had to be sent to persons officially connected with the College of Nursing, Ltd., from the first entirely out of sympathy with the fundamental principles incorporated in the Central Committee's Bill—*i.e.*, an independent Governing Body, for the whole Nursing Profession, free from the autocratic control of the Nursing School's.

Scottish Nurses who have joined the College are at present absolutely controlled by a nominated Scottish Nursing Board composed of twenty-one Chairmen, Medical Superintendents and Matrons, who have condescended to *co-opt* seven nominated nurses! If this is what the Scottish Board of the College of Nursing, Ltd., defines as a democratic system—may we invite it to define autocracy?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)