

REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL OF REGISTERED CHILDREN'S NURSES.

Committee E having accepted the Amendment proposed by Lieut.-Colonel Nathan Raw, that a Supplementary Register of Sick Children's Nurses should be compiled, Major Barnett will propose that "Two registered children's nurses to be elected as direct representatives by the nurses registered in the Children's Nurses' Register" be added to the General Nursing Council, and further, "And provided that any nurse whose name is placed on the General Register, and who holds a certificate for children's nursing, granted under conditions approved by the Council, shall be entitled to have the words "also trained in Children's Nursing" added to her record in the Register. Thus bringing nurses on this supplementary register into line with other specialists.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR NURSES.

Major Barnett will also move to insert in Clause 4 that of the four representatives on the first Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association and of the College of Nursing, Ltd., "two shall be resident in England—one in Scotland and one in Ireland," this to provide electorates for the definite national representation suggested by the Local Government Board.

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

Major Barnett will move to give a representative to "The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland"—to provide the fourth electorate required for Scottish nurses. This Association, formerly represented in the Central Committee, transferred its allegiance to the Bill of the College of Nursing, Ltd., just before the present Session, and therefore did not appear as supporting the Bill it had helped to draft, when it had the good fortune to secure a place in the ballot, which resulted in its Second Reading on March 28th last.

THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE COLLEGE BILL CONSTITUTION.

Mr. Leonard Lyle, Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, leads a group, including three members for divisions of Manchester, who have down several contentious amendments, the result of which would be to substitute the largely lay constitution of the College Bill Council, refused by Committee E, for that of the Central Committee's Bill, and otherwise to emasculate the Nurses' Bill, and deprive them of privileges agreed to in Committee. These may be termed "wrecking amendments."

LAY CONTROL.

BRITISH HOSPITALS' ASSOCIATION, LTD.

Major Earl Winterton, Chairman of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Ladywood, Birmingham) have down an amendment to give four seats in perpetuity to the British Hospitals' Association, composed of

hospital officials, and of which Sir Henry Burdett is an hon. officer. Colonel Burn proposes to add "one representative of the Joint Committee of the London General Hospitals for Children, and one by the Federation of Provincial General Hospitals for Children."

Mr. William Graham, Labour member, Edinburgh Central, proposes to add six more employers to the Council—one person by the Convention of Royal Burghs in Scotland, one person by the County Councils' Association in Scotland, two persons by the Associations representing boroughs and counties respectively in England and Wales, and two persons by the Associations representing boroughs and counties in Ireland.

Mr. Leonard Lyle for the College has down to add four persons by the Privy Council, three by the British Hospitals' Association, three by the Association of Poor Law Unions, and eleven by the College of Nursing, Ltd., so that together thirty members of the laity, the majority of whom employ nurses, are provided with seats on the Council, and the subjugation of the nurses would be complete if all the wrecking amendments are accepted by Parliament.

The tenacity with which all these employers of nurses are attempting to cling to their uncontrolled power over them is evident proof of the urgent need for Parliament to move in the direction of granting nurses adequate powers of self-government, and protection from the exploitation from which they have suffered so long, because they are working women. The only alternative, should the College succeed in its tyrannical scheme of registration, will be for young women to choose work of more honourable status, and firmly refuse to continue to be the only class of professional women deprived of self-determination and, in consequence, of personal responsibility.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE.

Sir Watson Cheyne has put down the following amendment to supersede the first Council as provided in Clause 4, and agreed to in Committee:—"Provided on the passage of this Act a committee of not more than ten persons shall be appointed to consider and take evidence on the best method of forming a register of nurses, to draw up regulations for the formation of such a register, and to form the first register. At the end of one year this committee shall cease to act, and the Council appointed in the manner before-mentioned shall take up the duties of continuing and maintaining the register." We feel sure that this suggestion will meet with strong opposition from the 80,000 nurses who will presumably have to conform to the rules dictated by those ten persons. It is not only a question of forming a register of nurses, but of defining their educational curricula, and making rules for maintaining discipline. The nurses claim the right to adequate personal responsibility in this connection, and members of the medical profession who enjoy self-government will, we hope, support the claim of the interdependent profession of nursing.

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