

attached, the persons above enumerated, and last, but not least, the Trained Nurses themselves. The letter stated that "for something like 26 years there had been more or less active agitation in favour of the Registration of Trained Nurses, but for causes into which it is unnecessary here to enter, this movement, and others of a similar nature, have hitherto failed to attain the object sought."

Sir Cooper Perry went on to say that the first Council of the College was formed amongst the Matrons of the leading training schools, whose knowledge made them useful to initiate it. One third of these had retired (they were re-elected. Ed.), and, next year, another third would do so.

The College was primarily an educational body and, as such, had a programme not to be found in the pages of its Registration Bill. The work of its General Nursing Council was not limited to registering nurses, and to prosecuting those who adopted their name, badge, or uniform.

It hoped to secure for nurses better salaries and longer holidays, and to give to the community an assurance that the nurses they employ are skilled in their professional duties. It proposed to establish scholarships, studentships, post-graduate courses, as well as to give pecuniary assistance to nurses in sickness and old age. The nurses in the best London hospitals could make a living, but there was no inducement for the payment of higher fees. Hence the need of securing the interest of the authorities. He commented on the slow progress of the registration movement without the nurse training schools and the progress made since it had been advocated on the lines of the College Bill.

The Bill placed the keeping of the register in the hands of the General Nursing Council. It was provided that the nurses on the College Register should be included in the first legal register without further fee. Pledges on these points had been given to members and there could be no compromise.

The College, on its part, would hand over its property of every sort to the General Nursing Council.

There were many outside their walls, at present lying low, whose opposition their Bill would have to encounter. There were opponents who objected altogether to State interference in such matters as being calculated to stereotype the system. Of this, bureaucratic Germany was the greatest living example.

There were also more insidious opponents, the managers of various hospitals—more than we knew of—who foresaw as a result of State Registration increased expense for equipment, the maintenance of larger staffs, shorter hours of duty, higher salaries for teachers, a curriculum less after their own heart, and, in consequence, the drying-up of the sources from which they derived their income and position. The special hospitals—particularly the children's hospitals—were anxious as they realized that they would have to employ

more fully trained nurses and more help in the way of ward-maids.

Then there were those who felt that registration involving a three years' curriculum of training would make it difficult for them to send out probationers during their training to do private nursing, on the plea that they learnt more in that particular hospital in two years than elsewhere.

The danger of those opponents who masqueraded as friends was that with the ostensible object of getting improvements made in the Bill, they might, in the present congested state of public business, succeed in getting it talked out.

Sir Cooper Perry contended that if a Bill was to have any chance of passing, it must be short, confine itself to essentials, and avoid unnecessary details.

The Bill of the Central Committee was, he said, twice as long as the College Bill. He criticised the structure of the General Nursing Council in that Bill and said that every one of the Clauses invited debate.

There was to be a representative on the Council of Medical Superintendents of Fever Hospitals approved as training schools for the fever nursing; then why not of children's hospitals?

Another point: four persons were to represent the nurse training schools; of these, two were allotted to the training schools for the whole of England, one to Scotland and one to Ireland.

Of the eighteen registered nurses, eight were to be elected by the nurses registered in England and four by nurses registered in Ireland. He was not arguing that it was inequitable, but any one of such clauses might well produce so much debate that the chance of the Bill might be lost.

Concluding, Sir Cooper Perry said it interested and amused him to find that those promoting the Central Committee's Bill had so much to say about the necessity of a democratic measure, and of the Labour question, and yet four of the eight representatives elected by the nurses in England must be matrons. They reproached the College with having so many matrons (there are 22 matrons on the College Council, and not one independent nurse.—Ed.), but there was no such provision in their Bill which, he contended, was the more democratic measure.

PROFESSOR GLAISTER.

The Chairman then called on Professor Glaister to address the meeting. Professor Glaister said that the time was more than mature for a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses which would enable the public to discriminate between trained and untrained nurses. He was very keen to see the Nurses' Registration Act on the Statute Book. There had been a good deal of ink spilt and language used, and still State Registration of Nurses was unaccomplished. He did not think the people in charge of the movement were altogether to blame, the nurses themselves were apathetic, lethargic. (Applause). They wanted the nurses to do some of the fighting. It had been said that the Nurses' Registration

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