

Bill should be an agreed Bill. He asked, did anyone ever see any measure in Parliament an agreed Bill. It was only when it came out of Parliament that it was agreed.

He had himself been associated with the Central Committee and other societies affiliated to it. He wished to see a Nurses' Registration Bill passed before he died. But a somewhat long lapse of time took place, and then, after a long period of inaction the present movement began. In Scotland they were anxious for Registration, and the Association for the Promotion of Registration of Nurses in that country had continued to be associated both with the Central Committee and the College of Nursing. Just the other day, the Association decided to come out of the Central Committee.

(A Voice: You were asked to do so; if you could not support its Bill.)

Defending the clause relating to the Supplementary Registers, Professor Glaister said that on going to Parliament for a Bill, the lawyers always put in more than was needed; so that they might have the power in the future if they wanted it.

(A Voice: We don't want it.)

He had heard it said that the College of Nursing was out to do special favour to the V.A.D.s. It was not their intention to do any such thing. He concluded by begging his hearers whatever their views to press forward nurses' registration.

#### MISS MUSSON.

The next speaker was Miss E. M. Musson, who said that all present knew that the State Registration of Nurses was a subject of the greatest interest to her. She would do anything she could to get the two Bills made into one.

After many years of disappointing work, we were still without registration. It was because she thought she saw a hope of attaining it through the College of Nursing that she joined that body.

The words of the Chairman were full of common sense. They were making the Register and she hoped the College was training nurses to exercise their right to vote for their representatives when the State Register was set up. They had now a membership of nearly 12,000 nurses enrolled under regulations which would be applicable during the term of grace. They were getting on with it. She claimed to speak from the nurses' point of view, and of the election of the College Council, said that, in the first instance, it was nominated, one-third had now retired, and one-third been elected by postal ballot by the members. No other candidates would be nominated by the Council. All members were equal, and whether Matrons or nurses, each had the same rights as to voting. The College was the most democratic body of nurses with which she had been connected, and she had belonged to several which were concerned in the organization of nurses.

Miss Musson then attacked the constitution of the self-governing nurses societies—societies to several of which she belonged before she was

nominated on to the College Council, and made an entirely inaccurate statement when she said that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was composed of certificated nurses and other persons interested in nursing. The membership of this pioneer State Registration Society has been composed since its inception, of three years' certificated nurses.

She then contrasted the representation of the Central Committee and the College on the Provisional Council, and said that the Central Committee was not so generous to the College as that body was to the Committee.

In regard to direct representatives under the Central Committee's Bill, some of these must be Matrons. This was not so in the College Bill, and the representation of the nurses was really larger than that given in the Central Committee's Bill. Concluding, she invited the nurses to wake up. They really must wake up. The Matrons could not do everything. Referring to the differences between the promoters of the Central Committee's Bill, she expressed the hope that those concerned would come into agreement instead of quarrelling.

#### DISCUSSION.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion. The first speaker was Miss M. L. Rimmer, Hon. Secretary of the National Union of Trained Nurses, who regretted that all the energy which had been put into the College Bill had not been used to back the Bill they already had. Speaking on behalf of the members of the N.U.T.N. she criticised, on their behalf, the attempt of the College to obtain incorporation without the word Limited by Act of Parliament, and described the previous unsuccessful attempts of the College to get rid of the word "Limited" from its title.

She did not desire to criticise the College as an educational body, but her members failed to see why this newest of all the nurses' societies should have preferential treatment under an Act of Parliament, or that its Memorandum and Articles of Association should be incorporated in a Nurses' Registration Bill.

When a Nursing Council was set up under an Act of Parliament, the qualifications of each nurse should be scrutinized, and during the period of grace she should, without extra examination, be accepted or refused on these qualifications, and not because she was now on any voluntary Register.

Mr. L. Lyle, M.P., said that Sir Cooper Perry had made a rather damaging statement against the smaller hospitals. He had said that many of the smaller hospitals opposed the College Bill because they wished to exploit their nurses. Had he any proof of that?

Sir Cooper Perry said he could easily answer that because he had not said it. But the State Registration of Nurses would make it more difficult for special hospitals—for instance, children's hospitals—to get probationers, and to keep up their supply of nurses. There were certain

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