

Registered Nurses Parliamentary Council" and that it should adopt the following objects:—

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAM- MENTARY COUNCIL.

OBJECTS.

1. To initiate, if necessary, legislation for the benefit of the Nursing Profession.
2. To consider and take action on any proposed legislation, or on the application of any Act of Parliament, affecting the Nursing Profession.
3. To consider questions of National Health before Parliament.
4. To use and support THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING as its official organ.

MEMBERSHIP.

Members must be "Registered Nurses."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

£1 IS. 10S. 6d. for work. 10S. 6d. for subscription to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

BILLS TO PROMOTE.

Questions which the Council might usefully consider in the immediate future, with a view to securing legislative action.

1. The enfranchisement of nurses resident in Hospitals and Institutions.
2. Rank for military nurses.

THE POLITICAL STATUS OF RESIDENT NURSES.

The President pointed out that the political status of nurses resident in hospitals and institutions was most anomalous, and must be defined. In one hospital their right to exercise the Parliamentary franchise was admitted, in another it was denied. The right of a nurse to vote must not be at the mercy of any agent or revising barrister. If under the present Act this right was not secured, then the Act must be amended. This could be done under the Representation of the People Bill.

RANK FOR NURSES.

The Canadian Army Nursing Service was the only Military Nursing Service in which the Sisters and Nurses had military rank, the highest rank being that of Major, with its emoluments, held by Miss Margaret Macdonald, Matron-in-Chief of the C.A.N.S., during the war.

It was a great disability in a Service governed by rank that nurses did not possess this means of ensuring their status and authority. It was not primarily a question of emoluments. The American nurses have since the war, actively organised themselves to obtain rank for nurses, as included in the Army Reorganisation Bill. When this Bill was under consideration of the House of Representatives (U.S.A.) on March 12th, Section 10, providing for Rank for Nurses, was granted by the House, in Committee of the Whole, without a dissenting voice. It remains to be seen if the Bill has been approved by the Senate.

EXECUTIVE'S RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED.

Each of the Executive's recommendations was then proposed, seconded and unanimously approved, with the addition of the inclusion of Naval

with Military Nurses in the demand for rank. The recommendations were then adopted as a whole.

In regard to the importance of watching the application of Acts affecting nurses, the President instanced the action of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, in issuing in the lay press, an advertisement for a Registrar, which contained no proviso that candidates for the post must be trained nurses. Presumably, therefore, the Scottish Council, which was financed by the registered nurses, merely required a clerical worker. This had given great offence in Scotland, where nurses agreed with us that what was required in a Registrar was mainly a competent nurse administrator, and a strong recommendation had already been sent up to the General Nursing Council for Scotland by the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, Glasgow "that the appointment be limited to a trained nurse, with administrative ability, and conversant with the standards of nursing education."

Dealing with the guinea subscription the President pointed out that the work of the Society in the past had been largely carried on on the most generous donations of the few, and by gratuitous clerical service, and Miss Mollett remarked that the finest work in the world was that done for love.

PROVISIONAL COUNCIL.

It was agreed that the new Council should be founded on an individual basis, and not through the Federation of Societies, and that a Provisional Executive, with power to add to its number, should be nominated representative of the following branches of nursing: General, Children, Infirmary, Fever, District, Private, Navy, Military, Mental, Maternity, Municipal, Venereal, Infant Welfare, Public Health, Insurance, Nursing Homes.

The following ladies who were in the room consented to serve: Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss M. Breay, Miss Bushby, Miss Kingsford, Miss Schuller, Miss Ramsden, Miss B. Kent, Miss I. Macdonald, and Miss B. Cutler.

The Hon. Officers consented to act until the new Council and its officers were elected.

BADGE.

It was agreed that a Badge in the form of a bar bearing the word Registration, dated 1902-1919, should be designed, which members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses should be entitled to wear, to show they had helped to win legal status for their profession. One member suggested that the initials "E.G.F." should be engraved on the back, which was agreed, and Miss Mollett expressed the opinion that she had "hit the bull's eye."

Miss Mollett moved a most cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick for her life's work for the State Registration of Nurses.

She also spoke of those who had fallen by the way. They would hold in honoured memory those who had fought the good fight in the past, and who had not lived to see victory achieved.

The meeting then terminated.

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