

Question (Miss Robbins): Why did the College oppose the Nurses' Registration Bill last year?—*Answer*: Because it thought the Council proposed was not democratic enough. A certain proportion of those elected by the nurses had to be Matrons, the College Council thought they should all be nurses.* A member of the audience here pointed out that not one of the members of the Council defined in the College Bill need have been a member of the nursing profession.

Question (Miss G. Lord): What was the standard required for hospitals, for their training to qualify for the College Register?—*Reply*: Forty occupied beds.

Question (Miss A. Cattell): Had "Nurse Juliet" been found? Plenty of public money had been subscribed to permit of the relief of her necessities. *Reply*: Miss Sherriff-Macgregor knew no more of "Nurse Juliet" than the inquirer.

Question (Miss Breay): Was the representative of the College aware that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was so highly organised that in 1908 it secured the passage of its Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Lords, and before that (in 1904) the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to enquire into the whole question of Nurses' Registration?

Answer: Miss Sherriff Macgregor was understood to say that she was aware of it.

Question (Miss Breay): Were nurses who joined the College of Nursing, Ltd., informed before doing so that they were liable to be removed by the Council from its Register without power of appeal? Miss Sherriff Macgregor was slurring over this question when it was pointed out to her that she had not answered it.

Answer: There was nothing to say a nurse could not appeal; of course, she could appeal.

Miss Breay said that reference to its Memorandum and Articles of Association would show that absolute power was given to the College Council to remove a nurse's name from its Register as it might in its discretion think proper, without giving her an opportunity of defending herself.

Question (A Visitor): Must a nurse have three years' training before being eligible for membership. *Reply*.—Yes.

QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO MISS MACDONALD.

Question (A Member of the Nursing Staff of the L.T.H.): Could she say why the new Society came into being when there were such excellent societies already in existence?

Reply: It was a question of employment and labour. The Royal Association of Nurses was in the hands of the nurses, that was why a number of Matrons objected to it. She has known instances of Matrons writing to nurses to advise them not to join it. The College was the employers' organisation. Its government was in the hands of persons in the control of Hospital Boards.

*To prove how misleading was this reply, the fact is that not one nurse was recommended to the Minister for nomination on to the General Nursing Council by the College Council—all its representatives are Matrons.

Question: Why cannot the two Societies join together?—*Reply*: The Royal British Nurses' Association had tried in vain to meet the overtures of the College. Unity was very desirable but the R.B.N.A. stood for certain principles, and they could be too dearly sold. If the College was going to be a College let it take on the functions of one. At present it was not an educational College any more than the Nation's Fund for Nurses was a national fund.

Miss Steuart Donaldson, the Matron, expressed her grateful thanks to the speakers for coming to address the nurses. It was the duty and responsibility of every Matron to give nurses under training the opportunity of hearing about, and forming an independent opinion on, nursing politics.

The Chairman remarked that few matrons were so impartial as Miss Donaldson, and extended an invitation to those present to adjourn to the dining room where coffee was served.

THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The usual monthly meeting of the I.N.A. was held at 34, Stephen's Green, Dublin, on June 5th, Miss Hezlett, R.R.C., President, in the chair. There was a good attendance. The sub-committee for the summer session was appointed as follows:—Misses Huxley, Carson-Rae, O'Flynn, Carre, Thornton. A letter from the Cork Nurses' Association was read asking the co-operation of the I.N.A. and sending full details of their proposed scheme for aiding Poor-Law Nurses. The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland wrote asking for three representatives at their annual meeting in Bristol. Misses Huxley, Carson-Rae and Michie were selected. Miss Rohde was accepted as a member.

VENEREAL DISEASE PREVENTION.

Lord Willoughby de Broke presided on June 3rd over the annual meeting of the National Council for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, held at 1, Wimpole Street, London, W. He strongly condemned the "policy of suppression" adopted by the Government in all matters relating to venereal disease, and moved a resolution asking that the Ministry of Health should authorise chemists to supply means of self-disinfection, which they are prevented from doing under Act of Parliament. Dr. Saleeby said he believed that the diseases were on the increase, despite official statements and "explanations." The resolution was carried.

MEDALS FOR NURSES.

There was a large attendance in the Board Room of the Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, when the Chairman, Mr. E. C. Bell, presided at the distribution of medals and certificates to the nurses successful at the recent examination. Mrs. Stirling, wife of the President, distributed the honourable awards.

The awards were: Gold medal, Nurse Harrison; Silver medal, Nurse Brocklehurst; Certificates, Nurses Bird, Skinner, Sydenham, Exoley, Symons, Richardson, Wilkins, Routley, Lembourne, Allen, Balkwill, Edwards.

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