

We members of the College, are of the opinion that it is not desirable, nor in the best interests of the Nursing Profession in England, to alter or modify our Constitution with regard to this democratic principle.

The Nursing Profession is unique in that, as an integral part of the nation's welfare, it demands the co-operation of the community it serves. Moreover, we consider that the presence on our Council of this Medical and lay element is of priceless value to us in our deliberations on the many-sided problems which come before us in connection with our work, whether of a public or a private nature.

Miss Lloyd Still then enumerated the various activities of the College. She further said:—

In conclusion, it will be seen that the College of Nursing stands for self-government and for a high standard of education. In these two particulars at least its ideals are identical with those of the International Council of Nurses which, according to its Report, desires:

"self-government of Nurses in their Associations, with the aims of raising ever higher the standards of education and professional ethics, public usefulness, and civic spirit of their members."

Also, to quote the Report:

"The International Council of Nurses does not stand for a narrow professionalism, but for that full development which shall best enable the Nurse to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern Society demands of her."

No better description of the aims and ideals of the College of Nursing could be found.

Members of the College have been fully conscious of the danger of "narrow professionalism" and have realised that in maturing their educational aims they must have in their deliberations the co-operation of those responsible for the training of Nurses; and, for the full development which "shall enable her to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern society demands of her," the co-operation of the community she desires to serve.

We realise with regret that affiliation with the International Council of Nurses is at present impossible, considering, on the one hand, your existing Constitution, and on the other, the democratic principles on which the College is founded. It is a great pleasure to us to be here to-day, as representatives of the largest Nurses' Organisation in the United Kingdom, to express our friendship and to assure you that our ideals and standards are in complete sympathy with those for which you stand in your International Council of Nurses.

#### Discussion.

Miss H. L. PEARSE (National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland) agreed that it was not possible owing to its constitution for the College of Nursing, Ltd., to affiliate with the

National Council of Trained Nurses. She could see a very fine future before it if it really became an educational body as its name indicated.

She thought the direction of its policy unfortunate. How could the College be expected to be self-governing when its President and three out of four of the other Hon. Officers were men, and a large number of its Council were medical men. It also included two hospital Governors and a lady of title. How could it be expected that the principle of self-government should be maintained? It was too over-weighted with the medical and lay element for the nurses to find independence.

Miss RUNDLE (Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd.) said that the President of the College was a nurse, Dame Sidney Browne.

Miss PEARSE apologised. She should have said the Chairman, who was the Honble. Sir Arthur Stanley. Four out of five of the Hon. Officers were men.

It was a disappointment to those nurses who for many years had been working for State Registration of Nurses, and had formed a strong Central Committee in conjunction with the British Medical Association, and had an agreed Bill with that object before Parliament, when the College of Nursing incorporated in 1916 as a Company, instead of supporting that Bill came right across it in opposition.

If you had a Council (as the College of Nursing had) which had only one nurse among its Hon. Officers, the Chairman of which was a hospital Governor, and which was composed almost exclusively of medical men and matrons, how could the three working nurses upon it have any effective voice? She would leave it to the Conference to judge. She considered there was not sufficient consultation before the College of Nursing was founded.

Miss M. BREAY (Hon. Treasurer International Council of Nurses) said that the fundamental disability of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to enter into affiliation with the International Council of Nurses went deeper than the composition of its Council. The College was, as the Statement submitted by the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to the Executive of the I.C.N. showed, a Limited Company of Laymen, registered under the Board of Trade, which admitted nurses to membership.

The difference between the Nurses' Registration Bill promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, and that drafted by the Council of the College of Nursing was also fundamental, inasmuch as the Governing Body provided for in the former was an independent one, to be set up under the Nurses' Registration Act, whereas the College of Nursing proposed that its Council should be the authority to administer the Act, thus making it obligatory for all nurses in the United Kingdom who wished to register to come under the control of the College Council. Independent nurses refused to be compulsorily placed under the control of Sir Arthur Stanley and Sir Cooper Perry, and the Bill eventually introduced

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