

to be suppressed and governed by the College of Nursing Company—composed as its Council is of hospital chairmen, titled medical practitioners, the College Matrons, and other employers. Professional nurses have just as much right to govern themselves as professions composed of men. As members of the Royal British Nurses' Association they have their Royal Charter. The more advanced nurses have their Trade Union; and although we all regret the passing of the National Union of Trained Nurses, we intend to keep the flag of self-determination flying.

For a quarter of a century Superintendent Nurse Bloxham has been the efficient, tactful and kindly head of the staff at Kettering Infirmary, and her resignation has been received with sincere regret, as she is greatly beloved.

When a girl at her home at Bedford, she desired to be a nurse, and her parents encouraged her choice, for while still young Miss Bloxham was in training at the well-known institution at Crumpsall, Manchester. Before she came to Kettering, however, to take up what might be regarded as her life's work, the training at Manchester was supplemented by seven years' valuable experience in the nursing branch of the Deaconesses' Institution at Mildmay.

Since she took up her duties at Kettering as superintendent nurse, Miss Bloxham has naturally witnessed many changes. Within that lengthy period the Sanatorium, the Chronic Block, and the Nurses' Home have all been erected, and a tablet in the hall, in memory of the late Dr. Dryland, recalls the time when that gentleman was succeeded by his son as medical officer of the Institution. A quarter of a century ago the comparatively small infirmary contained only about 62 beds, and now the total of beds, including five cots, is 110.

Superintendent Nurse Bloxham has been associated with the Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul, but her work has been almost wholly devoted to nursing. Particularly was she busy during the war, when the Sanatorium was turned into a V.A.D. Hospital. Miss Bloxham, who had "joined up" (as did also several staff nurses), acted for some time as nursing superintendent in nursing soldiers in their period of convalescence, a work which earned the gratitude of many who had been wounded or nerve-shaken in the great conflict.

By the present inmates of the Infirmary, Miss Bloxham's departure will be keenly felt and sincerely deplored, and the good wishes of patients and staff will go with her in her well-earned retirement.

HOW THE COLLEGE CAUCUS CAPTURED THE COUNCIL.

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Report of the Select Committee.

At the end of July, 1905, the Select Committee of the House of Commons, which had during two Sessions been inquiring into the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses, presented its Report, and it was published at length in this Journal on August 5th, 1905. The Select Committee, after full investigation, recommended to Parliament many of the great reforms advocated by the State Registrationists for many years and which had met with powerful and bitter opposition upon the part of the Managers and Matrons of the majority of the Nurse Training Schools.

The Committee agreed "That it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State." There in a nutshell were the great foundation principles which were involved—the Registration of Nurses; carried on by a General Nursing Council; appointed, as the Committee proceeded to recommend, by a special Act of Parliament; its constitution being defined in the Act.

It was noteworthy that the Select Committee were "impressed with the advisability of three years as the requisite period of training" for a nurse. Moreover, the Committee "recommend that the Central Body should decide what constitutes a recognised training school for Nurses," and that the Central Body should have the power of inspection of training-schools.

This Journal, which had stood alone in the nursing and medical press as the advocate of State Registration of Nurses, naturally congratulated the Nursing Profession on the conclusions of this important and historic Report. It meant that sooner or later the principles it advocated would be put into force. This, of course, was recognised by the opposition, but in its indefensible determination to control the workers and deprive the profession of nursing of its right to self-determination, it maintained united co-operation for this purpose.

Blocking the Bills.

During the years 1906–1907 the Bills for Nurses' Registration were introduced and kept before the notice of the House of Commons, blocked night after night by representatives of the Nursing Schools, the Hon. Harry Levi-Lawson (now Lord Burnham), as a member of the Committee of the London Hospital, popping up and "objecting" night after night. Thus the *Daily Telegraph* and the Harmsworth press took a leading part for years in "downing" the nurses, and depriving the public of the protection recommended by the Select Committee through a system of State Registration.

Then we come to the year 1908, when the enemy made a flank movement, and had it not been for the chivalrous conduct of Lord Ampthill, might

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