

of Nursing, for which he proposed to seek approval from the Board of Trade for Incorporation without the word "Limited" in its title.

Mr. Stanley stated in his letter that "there is no unanimous feeling either amongst those responsible for the training of nurses or nurses themselves in favour of any system of State Registration," and that his "own view was that for the time, at least, we must rely upon a voluntary scheme of co-operation amongst the Nurse Training Schools throughout the country."

In June of the same year a meeting of persons nominated by the Nurse Training Schools of Hospitals and Poor Law Infirmaries was called at St. Thomas's Hospital "to consider the first draft of a Bill for the Registration of Nurses to be promoted by the College," when Mr. Stanley stated that "once the Bill was passed the word 'Limited' would drop out, and they would cease to have that stigma. He hoped eventually they would find themselves 'The Royal College of Nursing' without 'Limited.'" So far, the "stigma" of the word "Limited" has not been removed, nor has the College secured the title of "Royal," which its Council hoped to do by the simple expedient of absorbing the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., when its Memorandum and Articles of Association were published in March, 1916, proved to be a resuscitation of the scheme for the Higher Education of Nurses, embodying the reactionary policy of Sir Edwin Cooper Perry, which emanated from Guy's Hospital, already referred to, and abandoned ten years previously after the strong opposition voiced at a meeting before the Board of Trade.

I had spoken of the need for a College of Nursing for twenty years, and outlined a scheme for the establishment of such a College in a paper presented to the First General Meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Buffalo, U.S.A., in 1901. I am as much in favour to-day as I was then of a properly organised academic institution, such as I then proposed. But to call a Society dealing with economic and social questions, and charity, in which the educational character is entirely in the background, a College of Nursing, appears to be a misnomer.

It would take me too long to go into all the ramifications of the resuscitation of Sir E. Cooper Perry's scheme for the control of the Nursing Profession through the Medical Profession and the laity. Suffice it to say that as soon as it was issued Sir Arthur Stanley's statement that there was no unanimity amongst nurses on the subject of State Registration was amply disproved, and the dislike of Miss S. A. Swift, formerly Matron of Guy's Hospital, for anything "legal," was brushed aside by a widespread insistence on the part of the Nursing Profession generally, that before it would be submerged under a Governing Body of the Medical Profession, laity, and Matrons, the State Registration plank was necessary.

The letter of the Honble. Arthur Stanley to Hospital Chairmen proposed a network of lay control for the Nursing Profession all over the

kingdom, first through a Consultative Board of Employers "drawn from all classes of Nurse Training Schools and Nursing Associations and Nurses in practice throughout the country," and, secondly, in the first instance through a nominated Council, largely composed of consistent "antis," *i.e.*, women who had consistently signed every anti-State Registration Manifesto from time immemorial, so long as this was the policy of their employers, the Governors of Hospitals and Board of Guardians.

Amiable advances were made to me personally to join this Council, but until its Memorandum and Articles of Association were made public I naturally refrained from agreeing to support its policy.

Meanwhile a general meeting of Members of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland was held in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, on February 12th, 1916, "To consider a Circular Letter sent by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman Joint War Committee, to the Chairmen of Hospitals, proposing to establish a College of Nursing on a voluntary basis, governed by a Council of Management nominated by the Chairmen and Governors of leading Hospitals, Physicians and Surgeons lecturing to Nurses, the Principals of Nurse Training Schools, and other persons interested in the training of women."

The meeting was a crowded and enthusiastic one, and the first Resolution affirmed:—

"Whereas this Meeting of Trained Nurses is convinced that only through an Act of Parliament, providing for the State Registration of Trained Nurses by an elected Body on which the Registered Nurses themselves have direct and sufficient representation can the Profession of Nursing be effectively and justly organised, and that any voluntary scheme, such as that proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee, in his Circular Letter to Hospital Committees is calculated to impede such legislation, this meeting emphatically supports the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and desires to urge upon the Government, and upon Parliament, the pressing necessity which exists for passing such a Bill."

The Resolution, which was carried unanimously, was moved by Miss E. M. Musson, President of the General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League.

A Second Resolution, moved by Miss E. Pell Smith, Vice-President of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, authorised the Council in the event of the Memorandum and Articles of Association being found to be inimical to the best interests of the Nursing Profession to oppose its incorporation without the word "Limited" by the Board of Trade.

Eventually the College Company did not venture to face the strong opposition which it would assuredly have had to meet before the Board of Trade, and was incorporated under the Companies Acts as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and such it remains to this day.

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(To be continued.)

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