

The opposition this aroused is now almost incredible. "A History of Nursing," by Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, relates the story in Dr. Hamilton's own words. "I handed in my Thesis in June, 1900. I had worked all the year on it, and it was gossiped about that I would never finish it; that it was absurd; that it would not be accepted on account of the menial subject. This brought a small crowd, about two hundred to listen. The time was noon, and such proceedings usually took about fifteen minutes. But that day the four judges were shut up in their council chamber and every one got impatient. It was one o'clock when they came out in their scarlet silken robes, looking excited and red in face. It later got abroad that they had been discussing my Thesis. It had been expected that the president I had chosen, and one of the judges, would be favourable, and the two others hostile. But one of the latter, receiving my Thesis on the eve of that day, had told some students that he could not lecture to them because he meant to demolish it completely and so would have to read it carefully. As it was quite long it was known that he had spent most of the night in reading it, but was, as it turned out, entirely convinced by it. Quite enthusiastic he argued for it with the remaining hostile judge, and they all forgot that the audience was waiting. The discussion was hot, and the most controversial statements were made by the judges to one another . . . I passed, but the obstinate judge would not agree to my having a 'very good' being determined that I should not gain the Thesis prize."

In 1901 Dr. Hamilton was called to Bordeaux to reform the *Maison de Santé Protestante*, and had the opportunity of putting her ideas into practice. She did so with great effect, and visitors to the Conference of the International Council of Nurses in Paris in 1907, will remember that she was accompanied by a group of Nurses in neat professional uniform, and refined in bearing and appearance.

THE HISTORY OF THE STATE REGISTRATION MOVEMENT.

Now that the past history of the International Council of Nurses has been put on record in the *International Nursing Review*, its official organ, by Miss M. Breay, Founder Member, in collaboration with Mrs. Fenwick, Founder, they intend to tackle a big bit of work in recording the "History of the State Registration Movement" during the thirty years' evolution of the Profession of Nursing from 1887 to the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts in 1919.

From the founding of the British Nurses' Association in 1887, with the ultimate object of State Registration in view, the struggle for the legal status of the trained nurse was one of the most vital efforts ever made by a small group of women for their educational and economic rights. Some five thousand pioneers paid the price, and in the past decade some 68,000 nurses have availed themselves of the privileges won for them.

Mrs. Fenwick has carefully filed the monumental records of the "thirty years' war," so that the accuracy of the historic survey is assured, and should prove of immense interest to future generations of Registered Nurses and Examiners in Nursing History.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

The Forty-second Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on March 22nd, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and the following members were present: Miss M. Breay, *Vice-President*; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss I. Macdonald, and Miss K. A. Smith, *R.R.C., Fellows*; Miss A. M. Bright, Miss E. J. Haswell, and Miss K. M. Latham, *R.R.C., Members*.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

It was reported that fourteen Nurses had entered for the Course of Lectures on Advanced Psychology by Dr. Ronald Forsythe, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M. (agreed by the Council at its last meeting), which commenced on Tuesday, March 18th, at 8 p.m.

It was agreed that as those who did not possess a dual qualification were not eligible to take the examination for the Diploma of Nursing at the University of London, an examination should be held at the British College of Nurses at the end of the Course and a Certificate awarded to successful candidates.

A Fellow was nominated, if willing to serve, on to the Parliamentary and Legislative Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. Letter from Miss Lucy M. Rae, thanking for sympathy.
2. Letter from Miss Mary Chadwick, enclosing copy of letter from Dr. Williams, U.S.A., and a copy of her Paper on "The Neurotic Child," which she is to read at the first International Congress on Mental Hygiene at Washington, U.S.A., in May next. Miss Chadwick will represent the British College of Nurses at the Congress.
3. Letter from a Member asking for Loan, recommended.
4. Letters from three Members asking for grants, two for Midwifery training and one for Housekeeping course. Letters referred to the Education Committee for consideration.
5. Letter from a Fellow asking for advice and giving list of accidents suffered by a number of District Nurses, owing to use of push and motor cycles on rounds on duty. The Council adopted a Resolution to be sent to certain District Nursing Associations recommending that such vehicles should be carefully inspected and kept in good repair.
6. Letter from Mr. A. R. Melligan, Medical Superintendent of the Red Cross Clinic for Rheumatism, Peto Place, N.W.1, in reply to enquiries as to status of Nursing Staff, stating that the Sister-in-Charge, her Assistant, and also the Nurse-in-Charge of the Consulting Rooms are all Registered Nurses, and that the Treatment Staff are all members of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.
7. Letter from Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., wishing success to the classes on Advanced Psychology arranged by the College. She wrote: "We all realise that great achievements have been obtained from very small beginnings. Only to-day I had a letter asking if I knew anyone I could recommend as Sister Tutor to a Mental Hospital. It has interested me very much; when I look back to 1922, when I was the first to appoint a Sister Tutor in this branch of Nursing, I was told I had set out on an impossible campaign, and this very Hospital so strongly opposed to any such idea is now applying for one! How the whole outlook has altered, and everyone is now

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)