

## THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

It is now twelve years since the great work accomplished by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses was completed, strenuously advocated for many years, *i.e.*, the organisation of Nursing Education, and Registration of Nurses by the State.

The Committee met in April, 1922, since which time a watching brief has been held—and as registered nurses are now organised in various societies of their own capable of advancing their professional requirements—those who originally joined the Central Committee realised that the time had come to dissolve.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, together with the Treasurer, Mr. Herbert Paterson, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., summoned a meeting of the delegates on Thursday, October 15th, at 5 p.m., at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1 :

1. To receive a Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
2. To decide what was to be done with the surplus funds by the Committee.
3. To consider the following Resolution: "That the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses be now dissolved."

There were present at the meeting: Mr. Herbert Paterson (Royal British Nurses' Association) in the Chair; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. Secretary Society for the State Registration of Nurses; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Marquardt and Miss K. Smith, R.R.C., Matrons' Council of Great Britain; Miss Isabel Macdonald, Royal British Nurses' Association; Miss M. Breay, Society for the State Registration of Nurses.

Letters of regret at inability to attend had been sent by Mrs. Strong and Miss I. J. Henderson, Scottish Nurses' Association. The former wrote to the Hon. Secretary: "I am sorry not to be present on the 15th October, at what must be to you an act of great importance, and must revive in you many memories of that ardent struggle which is so beneficial to the Nursing world. If it had been completed by a fixed curriculum, what weary hours might have been spared to those engaged in teaching. With a minimum of fixed subjects for final or State Examination the nurse could have added anything she wished, and not be compelled to wade through so many side branches."

Miss G. A. Rogers, Matrons' Council of Great Britain, wrote: "I much regret that I shall not be able to be present at the meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses on the 15th. I should have liked to be there to offer you my congratulations on the achievement of the aim for which you fought so long and so courageously. It is good in these days to hear of surplus funds!"

Mrs. Shuter, Royal British Nurses' Association, also regretted inability to attend.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. Secretary, read the Minutes of the last meeting, in which her comprehensive Report on the correspondence between the Committee and the Minister of Health on the question of depriving Registered Nurses of the record of their Hospital Certificates of training after examination on the State

Register, by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was recorded, together with a report that an amended First Schedule (to the Nurses' Registration Act), providing for the record of Certificates on the State Register was proposed by her, and agreed to by the General Nursing Council at its Meeting on February 3rd, 1922. This amended Schedule had been signed by the Minister, and agreed to by Parliament, so that the prompt action of the Nurses' Organisations associated in the Central Committee had averted a very grave injury to Existing and Intermediate Nurses, whose names in the future would appear in the published Register with those registered by Examination by State authority.

The Minutes were approved and signed.

### Report from the Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. H. J. Paterson reported "that the last audited account is dated February, 1920, and includes income and expenditure for the year 1919. At the time the balance in hand was £38 1s. 7d. Since then, payments have accrued amounting to £13 17s. 1d., so that the balance at this date is £24 4s. 6d.

"As regards disposal of the balance, the legal procedure is to divide it among the contributing Societies. I imagine, to adopt any other course, we should have to receive the consent of the co-operating Societies."

The Report was received.

It was agreed to divide the surplus funds amongst the constituent societies which still exist: The British Medical Association, if it desired to participate; the Matrons' Council of Great Britain; the Royal British Nurses' Association; the Society for State Registration of Nurses (the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council), the Fever Nurses' Association; and the Scottish Nurses' Association.

### The Central Committee Dissolved.

Miss Isabel Macdonald moved:

"That the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses be now dissolved."

The Resolution was seconded by Miss K. Smith.

Miss Macdonald spoke in warm appreciation of the work accomplished by the Central Committee, through whose efforts direct representation of the nurses on their own Governing Body had been secured.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

With votes of thanks to the Chair and the Hon. Secretary the Meeting terminated.

After all accounts had been defrayed, the balance at the bank, which it was decided to divide among the societies subscribing to the funds of the Committee, was £24 2s. 6d., and cheques for £4 16s. 6d. have been sent in each case to the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses (now the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council), the Fever Nurses' Association, and the Scottish Nurses' Association.

### BOARD OF CONTROL.

The King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Minister of Health, to approve the appointment of Mr. William Rees Thomas, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.M., as a Medical Senior Commissioner of the Board of Control in succession to Mr. Arthur Rotherham, M.B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)