

stances free from monetary anxiety, and in accordance with his position as an officer and a gentleman, it will be a disgrace not only to the Fund but to the Nation. It is the duty of the latter not only to subscribe for the relief of its defenders, but to insist that the funds so subscribed shall be faithfully administered.

THE INEVITABLE FIGHT.

We hear with much interest of the proposal which is made in New York State to consider the formation of State Associations for the purpose of drafting a Bill to secure legal registration of nurses, with regents' (or public) examinations. The necessity, and the public benefit, resulting from State Registration has, we are aware, been developing in the minds of many graduate nurses in the United States, and it seems that in the opinion of many well qualified to judge the time has now arrived to make an effort to obtain registration in the State of New York. It will be remembered that in the United States each State has autonomy, and the power of making its own laws. Legislation for the federated States is carried out by Congress. There is therefore no reason why New York State should not obtain the necessary legislation without waiting for other States. But it is noteworthy that immediately the question of registration is raised that the inevitable opposition arises, as indicated in an article by Miss Celia R. Heller in this month's *Trained Nurse*. We are specially interested in this development, because when the question of State Registration was first brought forward in this country we were told that there should have been no difference of opinion on the question in nursing ranks, the nurses themselves should have been united on this great question. We must point out, therefore, that the matter must always be one which raises discussion, because the financial interest of untrained employers and of semi-trained nurses are involved, and it is this point which causes the bitterness and dissension apparently inseparable from the question. The history of the struggle for the registration of medical men in this country points the same moral as that more recently exemplified in the effort to obtain legal registration of nurses.

The difference of opinion in the United States is, as we understand it, occasioned by the fact that the leading nurses who are advocating registration desire that the body authorized to carry out the scheme should be the National

Associated Alumnae. Membership of this body is confined to School Alumnae, composed of graduate members of the school, who are represented by delegation on the central society. There is not, therefore, likely to be any serious difference of opinion amongst those forming this body. The opposition, however, will come from those not connected with the Associated Alumnae, from the semi-trained nurses who are ineligible for membership, and from the untrained proprietors of institutions, which send out nurses to the public and make a profit on this financial transaction. The strong opposition to registration of nurses in this country was primarily offered by persons interested pecuniarily in the recognition of the inefficiently trained nurse, combined with those who made a large profit out of the earnings of nurses. The third class of persons who opposed the measure were those who were averse to legal status for trained nurses. The question of registration is an economic one, and being so, will always arouse contention until it is finally settled. The policy of the semi-trained will be to stir up medical opinion against registration by persuading medical men that nurses who have obtained legal status will be less amenable to their direction in the treatment of the sick. That the statement is untrue makes it none the less plausible, and as here, so in the United States it will be made the most of. We can only hope that the question of registration will be carried to a successful issue in the State of New York, and that, whatever influence is brought to bear on them, graduate nurses will, in the inevitable fight, stand by their leaders. There can be no question that the right persons to effect and carry through the necessary organization connected with registration are representative members of the nursing profession.

INFLUENZA.

It is welcome news that at last the epidemic of influenza seems on the wane. The return issued by the Registrar General, on Tuesday last, shows that instead of 340 deaths, directly attributable to influenza, as in the previous week, there were only 208, with 50 that were marked as having influenza as a contributory cause. The deaths from pulmonary diseases have also greatly diminished, and the death-rate of the metropolis is rapidly reaching its normal condition.

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