

through the medium of a Nurses' Home. A nurse returned to this Home from a case of scarlet fever, mixed with others in the Home, and invited two of them to tea with her in her bedroom. The day being cold, these nurses put on warm garments belonging to their hostess, and some days afterwards both of them developed febrile symptoms. One of them was removed to a fever hospital, the other was not seen by a medical practitioner, but the disease from which she was suffering was diagnosed by the proprietor of the Home to be influenza, and she was nursed in the Home for three weeks. At the end of this time she was pronounced convalescent by her self-appointed attendant, and was despatched to a boarding house on the South Coast. In the opinion of the nurse she was peeling from scarlet fever at that time, and it is presumable that her opinion was correct. At any rate, *no less than six of the boarders in that house subsequently developed scarlet fever.*

It would be interesting to know the fate of the nurse who occupied the room of the convalescent from "influenza," and what happened to the patients nursed by her when she left the Home. We hope that there are not many Homes in which private nurses are received, where such culpable carelessness occurs, but the moral is obvious that such Homes are a public danger unless conducted on strictly conscientious lines with regard to infection.

We commend the effective solution of the infectious private nurse problem to the Borough Councils, and more especially to the Marylebone Borough Council, as Marylebone is the parish where medical men, private nurses, and Homes for private nurses are most thickly congregated. We would suggest that the Borough Councils, separately or conjointly, should establish disinfecting houses, where nurses may pass the incubating period of the diseases which they have been attending, for it cannot be too clearly understood that, though a nurse's clothing may have been disinfected, she is not safe until the time has passed during which she herself may develop the disease. Then all private nurses should be required to notify the local authorities on leaving infectious cases, a conveyance should be sent to take them to the Borough Council's Home, and they should not be allowed to leave it until certified free from infection by its medical officer. The licensing and inspection of Homes receiving nurses would be an additional safeguard.

## Annotations.

### STATE REGISTRATION.

THE advocacy of the Legal Registration of trained nurses by Miss Louisa Stevenson, at the Brighton Conference, has aroused, as was to be expected, a chorus of disapproval from the anti-registrationists. It is worthy of note, however, that while the lay edited, so-called nursing Press opposes State Registration, the two nursing journals edited by nurses—the NURSING RECORD in this country, and the *American Journal of Nursing*, in the United States—are strongly in favour of it. The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the only professional association of Superintendents of Trained Nurses in this country, announces the obtaining of State Registration for Nurses as one of the primary objects for which its members are associated together, and the leaders of nursing reform are boldly maintaining the attitude which they have adopted with regard to this measure which they hold to be the only effective one for placing the profession of nursing on a satisfactory basis.

The opinion of Miss Louisa Stevenson on this important question formed, as she herself tells us, after much consideration, that "the remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of matters will be found in a comprehensive system of State Registration for Nurses. This in the interests of the State, of the general public, of all hospitals, and private patients, and of the nurses themselves," cannot fail to have great weight, more especially in Scotland, where her splendid work is well known, and her judgment as highly, as it is deservedly, esteemed.

The fact that the question of the desirability of State legislation was debated at the Annual Convention of the National Associated Alumnae in the United States is also one of primary importance. It was felt that some organization beyond the Alumnae Associations is needed in order to influence legislation, for which purpose, as Miss Palmer, of Rochester, pointed out, nurses would go before the Legislature as citizens of the State, not as graduates of any particular school. The organization of societies for purely State purposes was therefore discussed. Mrs. Hampton Robb, the President of the National Associated Alumnae, whose name as a leader in the nursing profession is a household word, spoke on this subject as follows: "We want local associations formed as soon as possible to get our State organiza-

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