

be seen that the stake which the public has in the question of State Registration cannot be exaggerated.

FORMATION OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

It is felt by the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland that the time has now come for the formation of a Society of Trained Nurses, for the express purpose of obtaining State Registration, and that the interest and support of medical practitioners and the laity should be invited.

The Legal Registration of Nurses is a difficult question on account of the many interests involved, and the need of safeguarding the rights of those nurses who passed through the prescribed course of training of their day, but whose qualifications are not in accordance with the present day standard, or with that which will no doubt be laid down when the curriculum of nursing education is defined by authority. There will inevitably be many difficulties which will demand consideration, but none which cannot and ought not to be surmounted in the interests of all concerned.

The first step towards the attainment of Registration is the formation of a Society with this object, which will afford a means for free discussion of the whole subject, and will focus, and publicly voice the views of the Members. With these ends in view, the Matrons' Council has invited applications for membership of such a Society with most encouraging results.

THE INAUGURAL MEETINGS.

A meeting of Members will be held at Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, on the morning of Friday, May 30th, for the purpose of adopting a constitution and electing the Officers, and at 3.30 on the afternoon of the same day, also at Morley Hall, a public meeting will be held, to which all those interested in the subject are cordially invited. Miss Louisa Stevenson, Member of the Board of Management of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and of the Council of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute, will preside and deliver an address, and will be followed by other speakers. The full programme will be announced later in the NURSING RECORD. Tickets of admission may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, *pro. tem.*, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

Dr. Henry Belcher, 28, Cromwell Road, Hove, Brighton, writing to the Press, as a medical practitioner of many years' experience on the question of affording trained nurses, as well as the general public, "protection against impositions,"—says: "I would suggest that a Registration Society should be formed under Government supervision, to be called 'The Trained and Registered Nurses' Society,' adopting a universal uniform or badge, with the power to impose a penalty or fine on anyone assuming the same unjustly."

The Royal British Nurses' Association and the Midwives' Bill.

At the last quarterly meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Mr. Fardon, the Medical Hon. Secretary, spoke at considerable length, and with his usual futility on the concluding paragraph in the Report presented by the Executive Committee, which was as follows:—

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

"The Midwives Bill has been read a second time and considered in Committee. It is set down for a third reading early in June, when efforts will be made to amend it. In the event of these being unsuccessful and the Bill passing in its present form, the arrangements for the efficient training of the Midwives it proposes to register are so inadequate that this Association could not be identified with the measure."

This is really amusing, and we are tempted to wonder if the Executive of the R.B.N.A. has read the present Midwives Bill. As far as we are able to discover no arrangements, efficient or otherwise, are made in the Bill for the training of Midwives. It merely provides that, on the passing of the Act the Lord President of the Privy Council shall take steps to secure the formation of a Central Midwives Board, and one of the duties of this Board is defined as follows, "regulating the course of training and the conduct of examinations." The arrangements for the training of Midwives which the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. characterize as "so inadequate" have so far not been made.

Again, its bombastic assertion that if the Bill passes the Association could not be identified with the measure is really laughable in view of the strenuous efforts which it made, unsuccessfully, to obtain representation on the Midwives Board. It is just a little late in the day to "decline to be identified with the measure." The Association might at least wait until it is invited so to identify itself. But the Executive Committee of the R.B.N.A. is singularly devoid of humour, and no doubt does not appreciate how ridiculous it makes itself.

MR. FARDON ON THE BILL.

Mr. Fardon having read the Report of the Executive Committee proceeded to make his own comments on the subject. He was quite aware, he said, that there was a feeling that this was a matter which in no way concerned the Association. (Nor does it, the R.B.N.A. is concerned with *nurses*, while the Midwives Bill if passed will create an order of Midwifery *practitioners*, but this the male officials of the Association cannot apparently understand). The Association had endeavoured to establish some form of guarantee of efficient training, (What? The officials have made a ridiculous remark about the members who have *added to their special obstetrical*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)