

HE Public Meeting in favour of the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which is announced to take place at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square, on Friday, May 30th, marks an important epoch in the history of nursing in this country, inasmuch as it is the first time that a lay woman has come forward publicly to help nurses with a sympathy born of a knowledge of their needs. We have had much unjustifiable criticism from women who know little of hospitals, and less of the difficulties of nurses, but so far the women, both medical and lay, who have evinced a desire to understand nursing questions, and to help trained nurses have been conspicuous by their absence. Nurses have therefore the more reason to be grateful to Miss Louisa Stevenson for coming forward to aid them in their endeavour to organize their profession. Miss Stevenson has for years past studied the nursing question, for which she has exceptional opportunities in her capacity of member of the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and of the Council of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute. She has

literature, and last year visited the United States and attended the great International Nurses' Congress at Buffalo. The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is therefore to be congratulated on obtaining the support of so valuable an ally. It is by the co-operation, not the criticism, of the public that the highest development of trained nursing will be attained. It is well that the public should realize this, for if nurses have obligations to the public-as for the most part they realise — the public also have obliga-tions to the nursing profession, of which they are wholly unconscious. But the reciprocity cannot all be on one side, and there is work before the public before an efficiently trained body of nurses can be placed at their disposal, and a State Register give them the means of knowing who are, and who are not trained nurses. No great reform is won without a fight and nurses are so financially dependent that they shrink from touching con-tentious questions. They require the support of public opinion, the help of public co-operation. We hope, therefore, that many of the laity will attend the meeting at Morley Hall, as a preliminary to supporting the cause of State Registration for trained nurses.



