

"First, they must be interested. So far the private-duty nurses, who are the very ones who suffer most from bad conditions, have taken the least interest. We call upon them to inform themselves as to this movement. If they belong to alumnae associations or general nursing clubs, they should see that their society or club joins the State Association. If they do not belong to any society or club, they should join the State Association as individuals.

"Next they should talk of the importance of this movement to their patients, to the physicians with whom they work, and to their friends. They should explain the dangers to the sick, especially when the doctor is not near at hand, and the wrong to themselves of the present lax methods in nursing.

"They must do all in their power to reach the politicians who will vote in the Legislature. They must interest all the people they know who have influence in reform movements, such as the members of women's clubs and those prominent in educational matters.

"Private nurses, if they are interested, can be a great power in this movement through their personal influence with the people with whom they come in contact."

Without united effort neither the nurses at home nor those abroad can hope to elevate nursing into a recognised profession. Let us hope that they will respond in an earnest spirit to the appeal now being made on both sides of the Atlantic to arouse them to a sense of professional responsibility.

Steadfast and True.

We learn that the formation of the Society for State Registration of Nurses has aroused a flutter in the dovecotes of the R.B.N.A. Why? The hon. officers, supported by the majority of the members of the Executive Committee, voted that "a legal system of registration of nurses is inexpedient in principle and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit," thus recanting for expediency's sake the very first principle for which the Association was founded. That these same persons have continued to sit upon a so-called Registration Board, and taken large sums of money from ignorant nurses—for this "inexpedient and injurious" process of registration—adds insult to injury in their treatment of the nurse-members of the Association. It is probable that the question of registration will be brought up at an early General Council meeting, and, if the nurse-members show fight, we have no doubt Mr. Fardon and his supporters will perform another *volte face* with becoming agility. Any way, the Society for State Registration of Nurses intends to go ahead, and press the question steadily forward.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



The Queen of the Belgians—the contemplation of whose sad life has brought the monarchy into well-deserved detestation, and given such an impetus to anarchy in Belgium—was a noble and charming woman, and in some aspects of her character presented a rather striking resemblance to the late Empress Frederick. She had the same charitable zeal and the same desire that her charity should not be advertised. She often moved about incognito, and innumerable poor never knew from whom came the yearly gifts of food and clothing.

Perhaps she will be best remembered for the fine qualities she showed during the Franco-Prussian War. Everyone was discussing the fate of Belgium; it is said that the State archives and Crown jewels were put up ready for removal, but through it all Queen Marie Henriette devoted herself solely to the task of personally looking after the wounded. For her work during this time of stress she earned the lasting gratitude, which was warmly expressed, of both the French and German Governments; and the sum of personal gratitude to her is beyond estimate.

The Committee of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses has received £60,000 of the £70,000 which it hoped to raise as a memorial of the late Queen, and has decided to close the fund at the end of the year. There is a sanguine expectation that the balance will be obtained in the next three months, in response to a special appeal that is being made. The movement has received much support in the country, and, as evidence of the widespread interest taken in it, the Committee point to the very large number of subscribers for small amounts. This fact will have weight when the apportionment of the fund is considered, and local nursing associations will receive generous treatment.

Many private nurses who have been at work in the military service in South Africa during the past two years are now returning to this country. The majority do not propose to take up private duty work; indeed, there is no doubt that after the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)