

working to further the Registration movement. Therefore the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses decided at its annual meeting to send the Bill it proposes to draft to hospital authorities, and to invite their consideration of its provisions.

But Princess Christian's opinion that trained nurses—*i.e.*, the workers—cannot approach the State with an appeal for a defined status without the consent of hospital authorities—*i.e.*, the employers of nursing labour—cannot be accepted as sound. One of the first duties of the State, through its Government, is to protect the rights of the worker, and to accord justice to the individual, even though that individual be an unenfranchised woman. That the large hospitals and training-schools have a great stake in the Registration question, as we have already pointed out, goes without saying. But that they alone shall dictate to a great body of workers (whose work was recently described by a Governmental Departmental Committee as a "national asset") their conditions of labour, and that unless hospital authorities choose to move the trained nurses of Great Britain are powerless to act, is an astounding assumption, which as a trained nurse we, for one, cannot accept.

The questions to be decided are whether women desirous of qualifying themselves for the efficient care of the sick shall or shall not be afforded the best facilities for so qualifying themselves, and when they are qualified whether they shall or shall not have the power accorded to every responsible human being, under just laws, of a voice in the control of their affairs on the individual and personal basis.

Whatever is the future attitude of the Royal British Nurses' Association, or of Hospital Committees, towards the sick—whether they decide for or against legal status—the important question is, "What are the nurses themselves going to do?" Whether others know their own minds or not, the past year has proved that there are at least 800 nurses who know what they want, and who mean to work steadily for it. The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses exists; let its members work till they are quadrupled, and then as a thoroughly representative body let them apply to the State, and, whether their petition is refused or not, let them say: "We are your children, we have qualified ourselves in the best manner possible for the responsible work of the care of the sick, and now we ask for our legal registration, not only that we may have that status which is accorded to other classes of skilled workers, and which we believe is our due, but in order that the sick may be protected from the dangers to which they are subjected so long as they have no means of discriminating between the trained and trustworthy, and the untrained and untrustworthy."

County Hospital Nurses' Leagues.

ROYAL SOUTH HANTS AND SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL.

So many Matrons spoke to me the other day at the Matrons' Council meeting regarding the formation of Nurses' Leagues in connection with county hospitals, that I thought it would be well to write a short article giving my own experience and views with regard to ours, and how far, up to the present, in these its early stages we had found it a successful movement. Let me own at once that I took the Bart's League (I am a Bart's nurse) as my model. Had there been no Bart's League I doubt if there would have been a Royal South Hants Nurses' League; I here own our indebtedness to that spirited movement. As I stated in the editorial of our first Journal, it was the pleasure I felt after our Bart's League was formed, in meeting o'd friends of my probationer days, in being one again with my old school, that first gave me the impulse to form a League amongst my own nurses. There were other reasons, but that was the suggestive one, and I have no occasion to regret that I followed it.

I commenced by sending round a circular letter suggesting the League to all the old certificated nurses of the hospital, asking them to attend on a certain date with the view of forming such a League of old R. S. H. Nurses. The attendance at the meeting was not large, but the letters I received warmly applauding the plan more than compensated me for the unavoidable absence of many nurses who wanted to come.

After some discussion, we agreed to found a League, and passed a provisional Constitution and By-laws, based, with modifications, on those of the Bart's League; these come up for final consideration at our general meeting in July this year. The nurses elected a President (myself), a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Executive Committee from amongst themselves, agreed to a badge, a Journal, and a yearly social gathering. The objects of the League were declared to be:—

- (a) By union to encourage members to maintain a high standard of work and conduct;
- (b) For mutual help and pleasure;
- (c) To provide a means by which the certificated Royal South Hants Nurses can collectively express their views on matters of interest and importance to the nursing profession, or, if desired, take action in the same;
- (d) To promote the establishment of a fund for the temporary relief and assistance of members of the League who are in need of such help;

and we decided on the amount of the yearly subscription, 2s. 6d.; the price of the Journal, 1s.; and of the badge, 5s.

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