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**Editorial.**

**STATE REGISTRATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES.**

The State Registration of Trained Nurses is a question which occupies a large portion of the horizon just now, as nurses are steadily settling down to the hard work which precedes the attainment of any reform worth the winning. For the work of convincing Parliament of the wisdom of according us legal status is essentially work which must be done by graduate nurses themselves. They must convince the authorities of nurse-training schools and the public that their demand is a just one, and therefore deserves support. So long as we wait for others to do this work for us, so long shall we wait in vain. We must show our sincerity of purpose, and prove our title to legal status by working hard to obtain it. If we are indifferent in the matter, we cannot expect those less vitally concerned to be enthusiastic as to the movement.

How has Registration been effected in those countries where it is now in force? The impetus has in no case been given originally by the training-schools for nurses, but individual members of our profession, with the assistance of medical men, have succeeded in convincing the Legislature of the desirability of Registration. Thus in Cape Colony, the country which has the honour of being the first to accomplish the Registration of Nurses, Sister Henrietta, of Kimberley, inspired by the programme of the Royal British Nurses' Association, at that time true to its foundation principle, worked so actively in the cause that the Medical and Pharmacy Act, 1891 (Cape of Good Hope), authorised the registration of trained nurses in that Colony. Again, in New Zealand, nurses are indebted to Mrs. Grace Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals, and to her chief, Dr. MacGregor, for their successful efforts in the Registration cause. After a fruitless attempt to secure an efficient system of Registration for

New Zealand nurses through the R.B.N.A., Mrs. Neill threw all her energies into the work of obtaining the passage of a Bill through the New Zealand Parliament, with the result that legal registration is now in force in that country, and the authorities of the training-schools are already beginning to realise its benefits.

Again, in those States in America where Registration Acts have recently been passed, the work resulting in this legislation has been done by graduate nurses. As a correspondent of this journal wrote recently: "The whole work was done by State organisations consisting *solely* and *entirely* of nurses." We have, therefore, in the light of previous history no ground for expecting the training-schools for nurses in this country to take the initiative in demanding Registration, although we may reasonably hope that their support will be accorded to those members of the nursing profession who are working in this direction for the public good.

It is important to understand the position of the nurse-training schools in relation to the Registration question:—(1) These schools are our educational authorities; (2) they provide, in the hospitals with which they are connected, the practical experience without which nursing education would be non-existent; and (3) they are employers of nursing labour. On all these counts they are entitled to, and have always received, courteous consideration from the promoters of the Registration movement.

But the authorities of hospitals are not the section of the community upon whom the lack of organisation in our ranks presses hardly. Law, order, discipline, and consequent efficiency are, as a rule, to be found within training-school walls. It is the graduates who leave the training-schools on obtaining their certificates who experience to the full the disabilities to which nurses are subjected by the present lack of legal status, and who have ample reason to know how frequently the public who pay for the services of thoroughly trained nurses are imposed upon and their lives endangered.

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