

## The Royal British Nurses' Association and State Registration.

We are informed on good authority that the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association is preparing a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, and that the sub-committee dealing with the matter is exceedingly anxious to push forward the business as a counterblast to the Nurses' Bill.

One receives this interesting item of information with very mixed feelings—pleasure and satisfaction that after a period of seven years, during which time they have done all in their power to “snuff out Registration,” going so far as to support those of their number who voted in favour of a resolution stating that “a legal system of registration of nurses is inexpedient in principle,” the honorary officers and Executive Committee have failed in their policy of expediency, and have returned to the Registration fold; and apprehension lest these gentlemen are preparing a Bill “to control nurses,” deluding themselves with the fallacy that they can in these days enforce a measure which will perpetuate their narrow and intolerant conduct of nursing affairs, and deprive a great body of educated and intelligent women of the management of their own professional matters.

The more Bills for the Registration of Nurses introduced into the House of Commons the better, as it proves the urgent necessity for the reform. But, from the bitter experience of the past, nurses will do well to very carefully consider the R.B.N.A. Bill should it see the light of day. It is too much to hope that it will give nurses the controlling voice in their own affairs—a fundamental principle upon which the organisation and good government of nursing depends, and one which must not be sacrificed, cost what it may.

As we go to press we have received the current issue of the official organ of the R.B.N.A., and gather from a chastened editorial that the original policy of the Association is once more in the ascendant. It is red-hot registration or nothing. All that we ever hoped for or dreamed of is advocated in this article—Preliminary Education, a Uniform Curriculum, a Central Examining Board—even the Matrons are to receive courteous consideration, and the nurses are actually to be allowed to elect their own representatives. Indeed, nothing short of a nursing millennium is advocated by the R.B.N.A. It is to be hoped that, having screwed their courage to the sticking point, the valorous hon. officers will not come across Sir Henry Burdett or Mr. Sydney Holland in the dark.

## The Registered Nurses' Society.



For two years past the little office in Regent Street, in which this Society started work nearly ten years ago, has proved all too small for the gradual extension of the Society, now that it is composed of upwards of 100 members, and the Committee has on several occasions considered the growing necessity of moving into more

suitable offices.

We feel sure the members will be pleased to know that after the inspection of many premises we have found “just the place for us,” and have taken the upper part (with a side door in Balderton Street) of 431, Oxford Street, a most central and commodious house. On the first floor are situated three convenient rooms—two of which can be used as offices—and the third, a beautiful room, facing Oxford Street, with a turret window giving a peep right away east, which will be of the utmost use in the interests of nursing in many ways.

The second floor contains four rooms, an inclusive light and airy flat, which will be let to Sister Cartwright and Miss Breay, an arrangement which it is hoped will be found for their comfort, and will thus enable the offices to be open night and day, much to the benefit of the members.

We hope to be in our new quarters before Christmas, and after New Year the Committee will arrange a House Warming to introduce all our medical and other friends to our delightful new offices, where we feel the R.N.S. will continue to flourish from the root in the future as it has done in the past.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

The difficulty which Poor Law authorities are experiencing in obtaining staff nurses has been keenly felt by the Islington Board of Guardians, in the course of staffing their Highgate Hill Infirmary, which is perhaps one of the finest institutions of this kind in the country. In consequence, the Committee asked for suggestions from the Medical Superintendent and Matron. The number of staff nurses has elsewhere, with the knowledge of the Local Government Board, been largely reduced and the officers concerned have reported to the Committee that the nursing is being satisfactorily carried out by the head nurses and probationers. Under these circumstances, the Guardians propose, with the consent of the Local Government Board, to retain a staff of six head nurses, who are to be chosen from probationers with three years' certificates. In the event of a surplus of candidates among the probationers, the question as to who shall be engaged is to be settled by competitive examination.

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