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## Editorial.

### HUMMING.

At last the Fairy Prince has kissed the Sleeping Beauty, and, after a considerable snooze, she has opened her eyes, arisen from her couch, and assumed a perpendicular position. In other words, both the officers and the rank and file of the nursing profession are shaking off the apathy of the last decade, and, having realised their serious responsibility in regard to the State Registration movement, and appreciating the fact that this movement is supported by public opinion, are rousing themselves to deal effectively with the problem of legislation. Thus, since our last issue, as we report elsewhere, prominent Irish nurses have met in Dublin under the presidency of Miss Huxley, and decided to extend the scope of the Dublin Nurses' Club and form an Irish Nurses' Association, and, at its inaugural meeting, listened to a forcible speech from Miss Kelly, Matron of Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, on the subject of the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

In Scotland also there is a widespread feeling that professional organisation would receive a great impetus if a committee were formed in that country to deal with the question of State Registration, and, as some of those ladies who have taken such an active part in forming the central Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in London are prepared to help in this work, no doubt such a committee will be formed and will receive influential support.

In England an immense amount of clerical work has been accomplished by the officials of the above Society during the past month. Upwards of 500 letters have been despatched, and the Draft Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses drawn up by the Society has been sent, inviting consideration and criticism of its provisions, to the committee of every hospital of importance in the United Kingdom to which a Nurse-Training School is attached,

as well as to representative Medical and Nursing Bodies and Societies, and to all the influential women's political societies. By this means the Executive Committee will be enabled to bring before the Special General Meeting of members, summoned for Saturday, 23rd inst., any amendments which, having regard to these criticisms, are considered advantageous to the profession as a whole.

The principle of the State Registration of Trained Nurses is therefore arousing keen and widespread interest, and, at last, we may hope that, in the near future, there will be a central organisation, not only in England, but in the sister kingdoms, which will deal with the Bill and further its interests in the most liberal spirit, so that the basis of legislation for nurses may be laid on the wisest and most acceptable lines.

We cannot hope that any Draft Bill can be a perfect measure. But with earnest and impartial consideration from those who are likely to be affected by it we may hope that a statesmanlike Bill will be evolved which, after mature and experienced consideration by the Legislature, will emerge as a wholesome, healthy, and workable Act, which will prove beneficial to the best interests of nurses, and of benefit to the public.

The present outlook is hopeful. Matrons and nurses are consulting together. Leaders of educational and social reform are bringing valuable experience to bear on the details of the proposed Bill, and, in our opinion, the position of affairs as regards nursing legislation is in a thoroughly healthy condition.

The ultimate result is largely in the hands of nurses themselves, and it is for them to come forward now and—realising their professional responsibility in furthering this great movement—to perform their share in obtaining such legislation as they consider best for the efficient care of the sick and for the welfare of their immediate successors in the profession of nursing.

Anyway, things are humming!

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