

them that it was not only their privilege, but their right, that they should have State protection, as it is only just that the genuine nurse should be known from the counterfeit.

Dr. Welsh spoke from the physician's point of view, urging the nurses to immediate action, as without doubt State Registration would be of as great an advantage to the nurses as it has been to the medical profession.

After a short intermission the meeting was called to order with Miss Nutting in the chair. It was voted that a State association be formed. The constitution, which had previously been prepared, was then presented, unanimously adopted, and the officers elected, Miss M. A. Nutting, superintendent of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training-School for Nurses, being elected President.

At a subsequent meeting the by-laws were presented and adopted. The Bill which had been previously prepared by the Committee was then presented, and with a few changes was adopted.

The nurses manifested great interest at both meetings, and all proceedings were conducted in a most business-like manner. They expressed their appreciation of having for their leader one who stands so high in the nursing profession. Already nearly 200 members have been enrolled.

In the Parliamentary parlance of the moment, the editor of the *American Journal of Nursing* is, like ourselves, a "whole hogger" on the Registration question, and in this month's issue prints in full the Maryland Bill, of which she remarks:—

"The standards of this Bill, both preliminary and professional, are greatly in advance of anything asked for by the other States, and, if the Bill passes as it is drawn, Maryland will lead in professional importance. This is as it should be. We have said before each State as it comes into line should profit by what the other States have gained, and 'ask for more.' We congratulate Maryland.

#### WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING.

"In North Carolina the Examining Board is now getting into actual operation, and the general tone from that State seems to be one of encouragement. We hear only the most favourable reports from Virginia. The leaders in the movement there seem to anticipate no interference with their Bill before the Legislature, and feel confident that, with their policy of going forward slowly and making their requirements for admission very easy in the beginning, they will have no difficulty in gradually establishing such a standard as they feel to be desirable."

"The report of the New Jersey State meeting shows satisfactory progress. Massachusetts has framed a Bill and is practically ready for legislation. The Board of New York State have decided upon the qualifications for the registration of training-schools, both preliminary and professional, and have sent their recommendations to the Board of Regents at Albany."

#### CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RECOGNISES REGISTRATION.

"The Civil Service Commission recognises Registration. The new rules of the Civil Service Commission of New York contain several interesting changes that are of importance to nurses. Under Rule XVIII.—the non-competitive class—Section 4 reads:—'For the position of trained nurse, when the applicant is a *registered nurse*, under chapter 293 of the Laws of 1903, a certificate of such registry may, when presented, be accepted in lieu of the examination required therein, &c., and "nurses" are in the non-competitive lists for "positions in Bellevue and allied hospitals," and for "positions in the hospitals for contagious diseases."

"Miss Delano, of Bellevue, and Miss Gilmour, of Blackwall's Island, were instrumental in securing this recognition of the Registration law by the Civil Service Commission, and in placing trained nurses in the non-competitive list. There will be work of this kind to be done in all the States and cities where laws have been passed. Our experience has been that politicians are usually very practical men, quick to see the common-sense side of the question, and ready to listen to intelligent explanations when reasonably presented. It is difficult for the initiated to keep pace with the strides that nursing affairs are making just at this period, and, if we expect laymen to give nurses the recognition we are working for, it is our business to see that they understand what nurses want."

#### A SISTERLY INTEREST.

American nurses are closely watching the progress of Registration in this country, and the Nurses' Bill adopted by the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses also appears at length in the *American Journal of Nursing*, which says:—"When the English Bill will have become law it will embrace all of Great Britain at one superb bound. The United States needs to 'keep a-hustling.'"

Miss L. L. Dock writes in the same *Journal*:—

"We learn with the greatest satisfaction that the English Society for State Registration has presented a Registration Bill to its members for approval, and that it has been adopted and is now ready to present to hospital committees, medical, nursing, and political bodies for their suggestions and criticism. The campaign of the English Society has been splendidly conducted, and the most striking demonstration of its success is the complete capitulation of the Royal British Nurses' Association, which now comes out for Registration after having been a complete bar and block in the way for ten years.

"Truly, nothing is impossible, even the moving of mountains."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)