

At the Quarterly Court of Governors held at the London Hospital on Wednesday, it was reported that the House Committee had determined to oppose State Registration for Trained Nurses. In the absence of Mr. Sydney Holland, the Chairman, Mr. Hale was unable to explain the reasons for this action upon the part of the Committee.

Mr. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, has drawn up a manifesto against the State Registration of Nurses, to which he is obtaining the signatures of influential persons, and he argues that in the face of "strong opposition from Matrons, from the medical profession, and from the committee-men of hospitals it is hoped that no Bill for State Registration will be allowed to pass."

Where do the nurses come in? Nowhere, as far as we can observe in Mr. Holland's argument. The truth is that the Matrons who have ranged themselves on the side of the employers of nurses are not safe or disinterested guides on this question, and the arguments recently used by Miss Luckes, the Matron of the London Hospital, in appealing to the self-interest of the nursing staff of that institution, in directing them to oppose the demand of their colleagues for legal status instead of encouraging them to take an honourable non-personal view of professional affairs, are not calculated to elevate the tone of the nursing school.

For nearly 25 years the Management of the nursing department at the London has been an absolute autocracy, which has successfully exploited the nurses' labour annually to the extent of thousands of pounds. It is sincerely to be regretted that a man of Mr. Holland's undoubted interest in the welfare of the sick should be found actively supporting a system which is deprecated by every liberal-minded person in the nursing world at home and abroad.

Registration would, no doubt, affect nursing affairs at the London Hospital, and at others following its example; the nurses would cease to be a commercial asset, and it would substitute, for the present unhealthy repression of individual development, a wholesome, breezy environment, in which the whole school could breathe freely and grow in grace.

Sir Henry Burdett rejoices in his *Nursing Mirror* "that an important hostile movement" has been initiated to State Registration of Nurses. Why, of course he does! It is quite superfluous to tell trained nurses that he will in the future, as he has done in the past, do everything in his power to prevent them obtaining the just State protection which they have so nobly earned in the past quarter of a century. Fortunately, his power is not measured

by his animus, and, considering the financial dependence of his paper on the support of trained nurses, *they have always the whip hand of his policy if they choose to exercise it.*

Miss H. Lawrence, Matron of the Zeerust Hospital, Transvaal, writes:—"We watch with interest the steady progress that is being made towards State Registration of Nurses at home, and hope before long your efforts will be crowned with success."

A Sister from Cape Town writes:—"Fancy, after all, the R.B.N.A. coming back to Registration! Better late than never, but we old members are not likely to forget that in betraying our interests ten years ago the hon. officers of that Society made it possible for nurses all over the civilised world to get ahead of us in the old country. No doubt there is still plenty of fighting ahead—the 'obstruction' bacillus is peculiarly virulent in any movement for the benefit of working women. We women are much too cheap in Europe."

The Indiana State Nurses' Association, of which Mrs. E. G. Fournier, Superintendent of Hope Hospital, Fort Wayne, is the first President, is actively organising to effect legislation, State Registration for choice.

The nurses of the State of Ohio met in the City Hospital Amphitheatre at Cincinnati in January to form a State Society of Trained Nurses for the advancement of the nursing profession. The ultimate object is to secure legislation and State Registration. 1904 is going to be a great year for nurses in the States, so we hear. We don't doubt it; they are bobbing up all over that immense continent to help themselves.

*Una*, the official organ the V.T.N.A., has just ended its first year of issue. It is now to be published monthly, and should prove of public as well as professional utility. Its first issue was dedicated to Miss Florence Nightingale, and through her secretary she has sent the following message to Victorian nurses:—

"I am to say that she is much interested in the work in Melbourne, and approves very highly of the Association in every way. She sends her best wishes for its welfare, and hopes that each nurse who receives her training there will do her individual best to be a credit to it."

We are glad to find that Miss Nightingale has expressed such warm approval of the work of the V.T.N.A. Its first object is to "establish a system of Registration of Trained Nurses." Since its formation it has appointed a Conjoint Board of medical men and nurses, instituted a uniform system of training and examination for

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