

### Progress of State Registration.

The subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses is to be kept well to the fore in forthcoming Congresses.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been invited by the Committee of German Women organising the International Congress of Women at Berlin in June to read the opening paper in the Nursing Session on June 16th; and the Organising Secretaries of the Women's Conference on Hygiene—a section of the Congress convened by the Sanitary Institute to meet in Glasgow in July—have also invited her to contribute a paper on "The State Registration of Nurses," both of which invitations have been accepted. The subject will also be exhaustively dealt with in the International Council of Nurses.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses had hoped to have permission to republish in pamphlet form the admirable paper written by the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson which appeared in February's *Nineteenth Century*, but it is greatly to be regretted that the editor has refused permission, so we must hope that Lady Helen will some day write us a paper, "all our own," which can be widely distributed.

The Parliamentary Bills Committee have met several times during the past month, and are keeping themselves well informed on all matters in relation to State Registration.

The nursing profession is advancing every day, says the *Medical Press and Circular*, and if the Bill for the registration of its members passes into law (which seems very unlikely this Session) it will acquire a status that will not be grudged to it by those who know the value of a trustworthy and skilled nurse.

We do not expect to get our Bill through this Session, but we thank the editor for his kind support, which we hope he will continue to extend to those nurses who have the public welfare as well as their own at heart, and who, like all reformers, have a stiff fight ahead.

The *General Practitioner*, discussing the Nurses Registration Bill, says:—"There is nothing in the Act, so far as we can see, which can provoke opposition from our profession, so we have no hesitation in asking the members of our Association to support a measure such as this, which will the better establish a profession which we must all from knowledge and practical experience hold in the highest estimation." Referring to the proposed constitution of the General Nursing Council, our contemporary says: "The nurses, should the new Bill pass through Parliament, will certainly be better off than we are as regards the constitution of their governing Council." The fact that "the medical

profession will be well represented" upon it is noted—not by "mere fossils, but men who are engaged in lecturing to or teaching nurses in nurse-training schools attached to general hospitals." It adds:—"We can congratulate the nursing profession on the Bill, and may add that they will be fairly represented, for in drafting the Act the promoters have avoided imitating the unrepresentative character of the General Medical Council."

The Hon. Claude Hay, Member for Hoxton, presented the R.B.N.A. Bill for "The Better Training and Registration of Nurses, and for the Voluntary Registration of Nursing Homes," in the House of Commons on Monday, 7th inst. Mr. Hay has obtained the support of Mr. Bignold, Mr. H. D. Greene, Captain Bagot, Lord Cecil Manners, and Mr. Ian Malcolm—all of whom sit on the Conservative side.

Three of the American States have, through trained nurses' influence, had Bills introduced this year into the State Legislatures—Iowa, Maryland, and Massachusetts. The first of these is strongly condemned by the *American Journal of Nursing*, as the Bill provides that the State Board of Medical Examiners be made the State Board for the Registration of Nurses, from which it is opined that the nurses of Iowa "lack the courage to fight their own battles, and the knowledge and ability to understand the management of their own affairs."

In addressing the Pennsylvania State Nurses' Association, Miss R. R. Hulseby spoke most earnestly of the benefit of securing protection and the elevation of trained nursing to a profession through legislation. She said whilst four sister States had already secured legal status, and the nurses of five more States were working for the same object, the graduate nurses of the "Keystone State" dare not sit with folded hands. She urged them to stand united, ready each to do her share towards building up a noble profession.

Some of the articles on State Registration of Nurses which have been written by medical men in America are so excellent that we propose to reprint them as space permits. We hope all our readers will study carefully Dr. Bristow's article published this week on "What Registration has done for the Medical Profession."

#### DR. BERKELEY ON THE BILLS.

Dr. Comyns Berkeley, Medical Honorary Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, has "glanced through" the Bill drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, and has summed up in an article in the official organ of the R.B.N.A. "a few" of the conclusions at which he has arrived after this admittedly cursory perusal. If he would give some careful study to the Bill, his conclusions, when printed, would probably be more valuable as well as more accurate.

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