

The law which your Association succeeded in passing last winter is a complete protection against so-called nurses who hold diplomas not worth the paper upon which they are written. I believe the law should go further than it does, and compel every nurse who graduates in this State to pass an examination, and register. If this were done, there would be an end to such advertisements as this. I do not believe that nurses in general appreciate the very real protection which this admirable law provides. If they did, there would not be a nurse in the State entitled to register who would neglect her duty in this respect. It is a duty which you owe to the public and to your sister nurses to take advantage of the law, which has been framed not alone for the protection of the public, but for your benefit also. Nurses engaged in private duty have been singularly negligent in this respect. I cannot believe that they fully appreciate the necessity of a full registration. Since the law is not at present obligatory, it will be almost wholly nullified if through apathy and negligence nurses throughout the State fail to register. Fifty or a hundred nurses cannot make the title of registered nurse of much significance. It must be so universally the practice that the people will expect every nurse to be a registered nurse. Then only will the title be a real protection to yourselves and the public. If there is one quality more than another which a nurse must possess to make her valuable, it is the quality of truthfulness. We must be able to depend absolutely on her every statement. Superintendents of training-schools realise this. I once knew a nurse to be dropped from her school because she was detected in falsifying her records, nor do I think she was harshly dealt with. I have called the graduates of these correspondence schools untrustworthy. I am sure there is no woman of the smallest intelligence who would not know that it was an utter impossibility to learn the profession of nursing by mail. What dependence, then, could be placed on the statements of a woman who commenced her career by patronising what she knew to be a fraud, and who was willing to earn her living by deceiving those who employed her? There is only one way in which such enterprises as this can be effectually suppressed, and that is by a universal registration. Training-school superintendents should urge it. Last week all the voters of this great city were receiving admonitions to register. The word has even more significance to the nurse who has fitted herself for her avocation by years of hard work. So I say to you all, register.

It should be the earnest desire of every nurse in the State of New York to protect her comrades and the public against women who are little better than adventuresses. You have been aided by the Legislature in this work. See to it that you do not neglect your duty.

All physicians, but particularly the hospital men, recognise the indispensability of the trained nurse. I never stand in the operating-room without a sense of gratitude and admiration for the splendidly-trained women who stand around me and contribute in so large a measure to the success of my work. I honour their patience, their endurance, their absolute fidelity to duty. The pre-eminent position which American surgery occupies in the world to-day is very largely due to the superior intelligence and education of the faithful women who assist us in operating-room and wards. It is one of the great pleasures of my life to bear testimony in this public manner to their worth and of our appreciation of their services.

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### The Irish Nurses' Association.

The rooms of the Irish Nurses' Association (86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin) were formally opened on the evening of St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, by the President, Miss Huxley, who spoke of the need for a central place where professional matters could be discussed, and where it might be possible for provincial nurses to apply for information upon points affecting their work, and of having a centre where all nurses would have the advantage of coming in contact with those who may possibly be more in touch with the movements at present taking place in nursing affairs.

Mrs. Kildare-Treacy (Matron of City of Dublin Nursing Institution) next spoke, and urged the members to take an intelligent interest in their own affairs. Alluding to the Bills for State Registration of Trained Nurses now before Parliament, she emphasised the necessity for probationer nurses to take a special interest in this matter, as they were only beginning their careers, and were likely to be much more affected by legislation than those who had already been working for many years. Miss Haughton (Matron of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital), who had charge of the musical arrangements, then asked all present not to forget the social side of the Association, reminding the nurses of the many pleasant reunions they enjoyed in the days of the former Nurses' Club, which she hoped would be repeated now that they had such a pleasant meeting-place. Miss Helen Shuter (Matron of the Royal City of Dublin Hospital) also said a few words expressive of her pleasure at the large and representative gathering of Matrons and nurses, and her hope that it might be productive of much benefit.

Tea was then thoroughly enjoyed, after which several members entertained the company with delightful songs and instrumental music. It was gratifying that so large a number of Matrons and nurses—250—found it possible to be present at this busy season.

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