

ing arrangements and their inspection in military hospitals.

Since the war this has been realised, and a Central Board has been formed. Different grades of Matrons, Sisters, and nurses have been instituted, and to the Central Board have been remitted questions affecting the training and discipline of the Army Nursing Service.

The Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, which has organised district nursing in the United Kingdom, has a similar system. It enforces a minimum standard of training, has a Governing Council, a Register of Nurses, and grades of officers and inspectors. The great success of this organisation may be largely attributed to the excellence of its system, and to the ability of its Council to enforce discipline and maintain a high standard of efficiency and moral conduct.

It is believed that what has been achieved for sections of the profession can be done for the whole body of nurses, and that the first step towards its accomplishment would be the State Registration of Nurses.

It is not suggested that unqualified nurses should be debarred from practising, but merely that they should be forbidden to employ the title "Registered Nurse," and it is maintained that this will be of advantage to the employing public, for it will enable them to select the quality of service they require, and pay fees in proportion to the skill and training of their nurses.

It will always be open to the employers to make such inquiries as they think fit into the antecedents of registered nurses, but in cases of emergency, or when for various reasons it is impossible to obtain references, they will have the assurance that the nurse, if registered, has passed through a recognised training-school, and was recommended for registration by her Matron.

PRESENTED BY MRS. MACKENZIE DAVIDSON.

GENTLEMEN,—This question of the organisation of nursing by State Registration of Trained Nurses has from time to time within recent years been brought to the notice of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, which is the largest society of women of all classes in the United Kingdom, and of which I beg to hand you the last Annual Report.

At the Executive Committee of my Society, held on the 17th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted in relation to the Nursing Question:—

"That the Executive (of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland) are prepared to support any action taken in asking for the appointment of a Select Committee."

In presenting the resolution to your notice, I would urge that as the efficient nursing of the sick is a matter of vital importance to every member of

the community, it is imperative that the Legislature of this country should acquaint itself with the exact conditions under which nurses are now trained, and of their industrial and social relations to the public.

In a letter addressed to the *British Medical Journal*, Mr. Sydney Holland discusses the reply of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to the Anti-Registration Manifesto.

1. He alleges that the Matrons of almost all the leading training-schools are opposed to Registration, and would not serve on a General Nursing Council if appointed.

If these ladies are so oblivious of their public duty, then, they must stand aside; but our experience of human nature in the past leads us to believe that, having done their best to hinder reform until it is accomplished, they will be quite ready to accept any honours which may be offered them when the fight is over.

Nor can we accept as conclusive proof of the undesirability of Registration the fact that the names of eight of the Matrons of the twelve London hospitals with medical schools attached are appended to the Anti-Registration Manifesto of the Central Hospital Council. Consider for a moment the irresponsible conduct of four of these ladies in reference to the Registration question.

The Matron of the Middlesex Hospital has since 1888 been a member, and for many years an active Vice-Chairman, of the Royal British Nurses' Association, founded for the purpose of obtaining Registration, and which has now a Bill before Parliament with this object.

The Matron of St. George's Hospital, although it cannot be laid to her charge that she has helped forward organisation, has also since 1890 been a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association and, therefore, presumably, a supporter of the principle of Registration until the Committee of St. George's Hospital took part in the Anti-Registration campaign.

The Matron of St. Mary's Hospital has been a member since 1888 of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and was one of the signatories to the petition for a Royal Charter, and her name was also appended to the petition against it; unsolicited, she applied for membership of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and has constantly expressed her support of the principle, and only withdrew from membership when the temptation to sign yet another document was apparently irresistible.

The Matron of University College Hospital has also placed herself in the same untenable position, having been, until the last few weeks, a member of the Matrons' Council, founded to obtain State Registration.

The fact that these four ladies hold responsible positions in the nursing world does not exempt them from a due sense of professional responsibility,

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