

Empress's Gift to Nurses.

Fifty-one nurses at North Brother Island were presented with diplomas recently, the gift of Augusta Victoria, Empress of Germany, in recognition of their heroism at the time of the disaster to the steamer *General Slocum*. The formal presentations were made by Acting Consul-General Gneist.

Dr. Thomas Darlington, President of the Board of Health, escorted Mr. Gneist to the island.

The head nurse, Miss Edith V. D. Smith, who directed the work of rescue and cared for the living as well as the dead, was given a gold brooch, the personal gift of the German Empress. On it were emblazoned, in enamel, the German coat-of-arms, in the centre of which was a large emerald surrounded with pearls.

Progress of State Registration.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Third Annual General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Friday, May 26th, at 3 p.m. We are glad to announce that Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., has kindly consented to address the meeting on Parliamentary Procedure in Relation to Bills, a subject on which we are sure many members will welcome information.

The Agenda will be as follows:—

AGENDA.

1. Minutes.
2. Opening remarks of Chairman.
3. To receive the Annual Report and Audited Accounts.
4. To elect the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.
5. Address by R. C. Munro Ferguson, Esq., M.P., on Parliamentary Procedure in relation to the Passage of Bills into Law.

Other business.

We hope all members will note the date, and if in any way possible, will make a point of being present without further notice, as the Society is now so large that it has been decided not to communicate with every member individually.

A LAY SOCIETY FOR REGISTRATION.

A meeting to discuss the State Registration of Nurses was held at Londonderry House on Tuesday, May 16th. Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, who had organised the gathering, was unfortunately unable to attend owing to indisposition. The chair was taken by the Marchioness of Londonderry, who in introducing the subject, touched mainly upon points which would be of importance to the public in helping them to differentiate between the trained and partially trained woman.

Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Mollett, Miss Hughes, and Mr. Cantlie, F.R.C.S., were among the

speakers, each discussing the question from different standpoints. As a result of the proceedings, a large and influential Lay Committee was formed, its object being to assist in bringing about the State Registration of Nurses. A vote of thanks was accorded to Lady Londonderry for the use of her house and for presiding.

The meeting which was well attended, included among others the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, Lady Loch, Lady Biddulph, and Lady Ludlow.

THE MARYLEBONE BOROUGH COUNCIL TAKES ACTION.

The Marylebone Borough Council, on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee, of which Dr. Fletcher Little is Chairman, has decided to petition Parliament in favour of the Nurses' Registration Bill. In the discussion of the subject, Councillor Walshe said that the Bill intimately concerned their Borough, as if carried a large number of undesirable nursing homes which existed in Marylebone would be suppressed.

Councillor Knight said there was too much registration nowadays. It would not be long before they had an Incorporated Society of Prostitutes. Some of the nurses fancied themselves too much as it was, and thought they knew more than the doctors.

Councillor the Rev. H. E. Stone said he was in the dark about the provisions of the Bill, but if it would drive inefficient nurses out of their homes and give them efficient nurses he would support it.

Councillor Dr. Fletcher Little said the Bill for the Registration of Nurses did concern the Borough Council in their capacity as representatives of the people's interests. Under existing conditions they sent to a nursing institution for nurses, and they might get nursemaids in nurses' dress. He knew cases where that had occurred, and he spoke from experience. Numbers of persons were acting as nurses who had had no training and possessed no experience. The Bill would remedy that, and would ensure efficient nurses for all classes of the community, just as the Midwives' Act ensured skilled attention to the women of the poorer classes in their hour of need.

Distinctive Badges for Nurses.

Miss Dorothy A. Davey, a certificated obstetric nurse, writes to the *Lancet* suggesting that every certificated nurse should wear a distinctive badge, which "would obviate the necessity for any other registration of Nurses or uniform, as the public could tell at a glance whether or not the owner of the uniform had earned the right to wear it." The public would first have to grasp the significance of six different badges, and then bear it in mind! The suggestion does not touch the main point involved in Registration—namely, the definition of a minimum standard of education.

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