

Progress of State Registration.

We beg to thank our numerous correspondents for their telegrams, cards, and kind letters of congratulation on the Report of the Select Committee on Registration. We add our own congratulations to the Profession of Nursing generally.

At the recent meeting of the British Medical Association at Leicester, it was decided to refer to the Divisions the question of the State Registration of Nurses for their comments. We hope nurses interested in the subject will make a point of placing before any medical men with whom they come in contact the very forcible reasons why legislation is necessary on this subject.

On July 4th, at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada, Miss C. Arty read a paper on Registration for Graduate Nurses, and as a result of the discussion which followed, a resolution was passed that the Council secure, if possible, the co-operation of the medical councils of the several provinces, and that they assist the Graduate Nurses' Association to secure Registration under the Dominion Government.

The National Council of Women of Canada have thus set an excellent example to the National Council of Women at home, which so far has left this most important question of the organisation of professional nursing severely alone, work which surely should appeal to, and receive active support from, women. What is the use of Women's Councils if they are too timorous to form and express opinions on matters necessarily contentious in their transition-stage and who wait till a section of the community, the trained nurses themselves, have effected a great national reform, without giving a helping hand. This lack of interest, in the work of societies which form it, can hardly conduce to the prestige of our National Council of Women.

The American Federation of Nurses have just voted to resign membership in the National Council of Women of the United States—a very great loss to any society assuming to represent national opinion—we presume for the same reasons to which we take exception in this country. If it is to remain national, it will be well for our Council not to become a negligible quantity. We are immensely in favour of co-operation, but without courage co-operation soon becomes futile. We are of opinion that it is the duty of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland to take the trouble to acquaint itself with the Nursing question in all its phases, and thus not be found in the anomalous position of sitting on the hedge whilst Parliament is engaged in legislating on a woman's question of the utmost importance to every member of the community.

Legal Matters.

A NURSE CHARGED WITH MATRICIDE.

At the Leeds Assizes last Friday, before Mr. Justice Jelf, Madeline Aspinwall, a professional nurse, was indicted for the wilful murder of her mother, Harriet Aspinwall, at Sheffield on June 16th.

The mother, who was seventy years of age, had been ill for about eighteen months, and had become mentally afflicted. She lived with a married daughter, Mrs. Turnbull, in Sheffield, and the prisoner also resided there. The prisoner was stated to have been passionately fond of her mother, and she had nursed her carefully. It was decided that the old lady should be removed to an asylum, and on hearing this, it was said, the prisoner became very agitated, declaring that her mother should never leave the house. She was requested to accompany the ambulance to the asylum, but, said counsel, she had a fixed idea that the removal should not take place. The mother was found sleeping heavily, and eventually died from the effects of laudanum, which, it was alleged, the prisoner had administered.

For the defence, it was shown that the prisoner had been the mistress of a boarding school, and that, after leaving, she had been subject to great depression. Her health afterwards completely broke down at a hospital, and she locked herself in a room away from all friends, suffering from acute depression and refusing to take food. This was about four years ago, and since then there had been further evidence of a complete breakdown in health.

Medical evidence showed that the nursing of the mother was calculated to have a specially prejudicial effect on the mind of the prisoner, who might not have known she was doing a wrongful act. The motive of the act was, however, emphasised by the prosecution as an element in the case.

The judge said it was one of the most sad and pathetic cases he had ever had to try, but there was considerable method in the prisoner's madness.

The prisoner was found to be guilty of murder, but insane, and was ordered to be detained during his Majesty's pleasure, as a criminal lunatic.

DAMAGES FOR ACCIDENT.

Miss Jessie G. Truman, a professional nurse, sued Samuel Rowley in the Lichfield County Court for £11 12s. damages, alleged to have been caused through defendant's negligent driving of a trap.

The plaintiff was riding her cycle in Lichfield, and when turning a dangerous corner she was run into and knocked down by the defendant, who was on his wrong side of the road. Verdict for the plaintiff for £10 10s.

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