

## The Progress of State Registration.

A representative deputation of Matrons was received by Members of Parliament in the now historic Committee Room No. 17 at the House of Commons on Thursday last, when the views which they expressed on various important details in the Bills for the State Registration of Nurses to be presented to Parliament this Session were accorded sympathetic attention. The Matrons were unanimous in support of:—

(1.) A Central Nursing Council of sufficient size to be thoroughly representative of the interests of every branch of nursing, and to permit of ample autonomy for Scotland and Ireland.

(2.) A Central Examining Body for the nursing profession.

(3.) A fee for examination and registration, which would permit the profession to be self supporting and not rate aided.

### CONGRATULATIONS APPRECIATED.

The following letters have been received by the Hon. Secretary of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in reply to hearty congratulations sent to the nurses of various American States where State Registration has recently been granted:—

California State Nurses' Association,  
January 14th, 1906.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—On behalf of the California State Nurses' Association, I take great pleasure in expressing our appreciation of the resolution and vote of congratulation upon the passing of our Bill for the State Registration of Nurses by the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses of England. As yet the struggle for the enactment of the law for registration is not over. Still, we hope for an early definite answer from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of California.

Respectfully yours,

S. GOTEA DOZIER, President.

The Colorado State Trained Nurses' Association, 125, East Eighteenth Avenue, Denver, Colorado, February 16th, 1906.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—The vote of congratulation extended by the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses has just been received.

The Colorado State Trained Nurses' Association greatly appreciates this evidence of goodwill and interest from the British nurses, and hopes the day is not far distant when a Registration Law for nurses in Great Britain will be a fact.—Believe me,

Most cordially yours,

LOUIE CROFT BOYD, R.N. Secretary.

## The White Plague in its Stronghold.

If the disease known as consumption had been previously unknown, and were for the first time to appear, there would be a cry of horror from the whole civilised world at the ravages it works. But use has accustomed us to its presence in our midst, and we can read that "it has killed, not millions, but billions of men, women, and children, more than all wars and plagues the world over," and still scarcely be stirred to vigorous action, though in one year in Europe alone the death roll is over a million. And yet this plague is preventable, and so are all the sorrow, suffering, and privation following in its train.

The stronghold of the plague, which is a filth disease, is the crowded, dark, unsanitary quarters of great cities. It has been proved that the germs, which are killed by fifteen minutes' exposure to sunshine, live on for two years in such localities, and infect successive tenants, who in their turn infect the work on which they are engaged, often up to the day of their death, and so citizens living in sanitary areas sicken and die because their corporate conscience is so little developed that they allow these plague spots to remain in their midst, and do not ensure to every man, woman, and child their inalienable right to fresh air, pure water, and God-given sunlight.

Nowhere has the plague a great stronghold than in the tenements of New York, where a valiant effort is now being made to grapple with it. A pamphlet on "The Plague in its Stronghold," by Mr. Ernest Poole, of the University Settlement, New York City, gives a graphic and hideous description of the conditions there prevailing. He tells of a Roumanian Jew, who two years before had come to America, young, well, and hopeful, with his wife and their baby son. It was to be a new country, a new home, a fresh start, a land to breathe in. But he breathed no air but the close, heavy air of the sweat shop from six in the morning until ten at night, sometimes till eleven, and the heavy foul air of the tenement at night, and he died whispering, "Breath—breath—breath. Or kill me, O kill me."

The plague is not directly hereditary, only the tendency is inherited; it is produced by infection from living germs, and it is our lethargy which allows these germs to live, to infect successive families living in the hovels which too often are all the poor have to call home, and to kill not only men and women but little children. There is one block in a New York tenement known as the "Lung Block" because of the many residents who fall victims to pulmonary tuberculosis. The population of the ward, housing 478 human beings to an acre, is steadily increasing, the "Lung Block" alone holds nearly four thousand, not to mention dogs, cats, parrots, and one weasened old monkey. Of the humans 400 are babies.

Our illustration is of one of the residents in the "Lung Block." It is surely pitiful that this dear, smiling little lad should be exposed to the terrible infection, that his chance of reaching healthy adult life should be so small. Yet, so

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)