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Editorial.

THE DEPUTATION TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The reception of an influential Deputation, by the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Privy Council, on the subject of State Registration, of which we print a full account in another column, is an important event in the movement for State Registration. Registrationists are greatly indebted to Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., for obtaining Lord Crewe's consent to receive the Deputation, and to the Lord President for the close attention with which he listened to the arguments placed before him, and the able way in which he subsequently dealt with the question. The object of the Deputation, as explained by Mr. Tennant, was to ask the Lord President whether the Government would undertake to introduce legislation in regard to the State Registration of Nurses.

Four points in the reply of Lord Crewe are noteworthy:—

1. That the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses is one of national importance.
2. That no difficulty had been suggested by the opposition in the evidence tendered before the Select Committee of the House of Commons which it was beyond the power of a Governing Body, appointed under a Nurses' Registration Act, to deal with effectively.
3. That though, with an already full programme of legislation, he could not hold out the hope that a Government Bill, dealing with the question, could be introduced into the House of Commons this Session; yet, if a private members' Bill were introduced into the House of Lords it should receive the "benevolent attention" of the Government.

4. That it could not be very long before the subject occupied the serious attention of Parliament.

This pronouncement, as a whole, is certainly one of sympathy with the Registration movement and may well afford encouragement to its advocates.

Another point of importance in regard to this Deputation is to be found in the fact that it included three members of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nursing. As Mr. Tennant was careful to explain, the Committee approached the subject with a perfectly open mind. The presence with the Deputation, therefore, of Lord Morpeth and Mr. Charles Hobbhouse afford proof of the strength of the case for Registration offered to Committee.

The position of the Registration Question at the present time is not whether or not it is desirable. This point is conceded. What is now before us is the precise way in which legislation shall be carried out. In this connection we must remember that an Act now passed will affect not only the nurses of the present day, but those of the future also, and on nurses to-day falls the responsibility of securing that such an Act is passed as will by its wisdom and justice commend itself to the profession at large, and prove that they realise their responsibilities in regard to any legislation which may be enacted.

It is therefore the duty of trained nurses, especially those holding positions of professional responsibility, to have an intelligent knowledge of the Registration Question, and to support those friends of the best interests of nurses who in Parliament and out are striving to further their legitimate desire for the utmost efficiency, and honourable status, of the great profession of nursing.

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