

## Progress of State Registration.

Dr. Pope, of Leicester, President of the Midland Branch of the British Medical Association, has forwarded to the Editor of the *British Medical Journal* a resolution passed at a large and influential meeting held at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester, asking him by personal influence or otherwise to assist in the passage of an Act for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The Resolution records the emphatic approval of the principle of the State Registration of Trained Nurses expressed by the above meeting of ladies and gentlemen of the County and Borough of Leicester, and urges the Government to support such Registration with the object of securing it.

It is interesting to learn from the *American Journal of Nursing* that Mrs. Hunter Robb and Miss S. F. Palmer were by chance in Toronto on March 9th, the day fixed for the hearing, before the Committee, of the Ontario Nurses' Registration Bill. A large delegation of nurses appeared in support of the measure. The Bill was fathered by Mr. St. John, Speaker of the House, and the attitude of the members seemed to be friendly. There was practically no opposition.

The speakers in support of the Bill were Miss Eastwood, Superintendent of the Victorian Order, of Ontario; Dr. Helen McMurchy, editor-in-chief of the *Canadian Nurse*; Miss M. A. Snively, Superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital; Miss Brent, Superintendent of the Children's Hospital; Mrs. Pafford, Miss Mitchell, and others. Mrs. Robb and Miss Palmer were invited to tell of Registration in the United States. Mrs. Robb gave an outline of the progress of Registration there, and closed her remarks by taking exception to the composition of the council—the Bill under consideration providing that there should be eleven nurses, members of the Ontario Nurses' Association, three of them to be superintendents of training-schools, with *four medical practitioners*—taking the ground that Registration had for its ultimate end the placing of nursing upon the basis of a profession and that in order to be a profession the management of all such professional matters must be in the hands of nurses themselves, emphasising the fact that it was not because of antagonism towards physicians but for professional motives that she advocated a council composed entirely of nurses.

Miss Palmer, who was the last speaker, explained the effect on the training-schools of the New York Registration law, stating that the object of her visit to Canada was to inspect

for the New York State Education Department the training-schools of Ontario that were applying for registration, that their graduates working in New York State might enjoy all of the privileges of the New York statute. She emphasised the fact that in the administration of the Registration laws in the United States there had been no discrimination against Canadian nurses, but that they had been given full recognition in the organisation and educational life of the States, and that in at least two States Canadian nurses who were British subjects were serving on the board of examiners. She called attention to that clause in the Bill which provides "that no person shall be eligible to serve on the council who is *not a British subject, resident in Ontario,*" as being illiberal towards the nurses of other countries who might be living in Canada, as Registration was a strictly educational measure and not a political one.

In Iowa the nurses have withdrawn their Bill rather than accept the condition that the Legislature would grant.

The Maryland Nurses are to be congratulated that by a vigorous effort they have defeated an amendment to their Bill by which a certain class of schools should be privileged to send out nurses as a means of revenue.

The last day of the period of the "waiver" in New York State is April 26th, and one more practical examination is to be held on that day.

## A Flourishing Association.

District Nursing Associations are often so hard pressed for funds that it is a pleasure to learn that the Swansea District Nursing Association (26, St. Helen's Road, Swansea), which is affiliated to Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, has not only had an increase of work—by no means an uncommon occurrence—but the funds to support it have steadily increased also. No less than £262 5s. 3d. has been received from the Penny Fund, which aims at collecting one penny a month from every house in the town, irrespective of class or creed. The very poor districts have responded most satisfactorily to this appeal. It is gratifying also that the nurses' work has a distinct influence upon the receipts. No sooner does a nurse work in a street than the collections at once improve, and in no house in which a nurse has worked has money ever been refused. The Committee, encouraged by the successful working of the Penny Collecting Fund, have decided to engage a district midwife, who will work amongst the very poor.

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