

Progress of State Registration.

A very interested audience, at the Midwives' Institute and Trained Nurses' Club, listened to an address given by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson on Friday evening last week, on the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Nurses are fortunate in having secured the assistance of a champion who can state the case for Registration with so much logic, eloquence, and irresistible charm.

The *St. John's House News*, dealing editorially with the Registration question, says:—

"Since the issue of our last number, much has happened in the nursing world. Several meetings have been held, and it seems as if the goal at which we are aiming is almost in view. We are still struggling for State Registration, and there is much to be done if we wish a good Bill to be presented or passed by Parliament.

"We should like all trained nurses to ask themselves these questions:—'What do I know about State Registration?' and 'Do I wish for it?' Many will answer both in the negative; then why not set to work and study the pros and cons for State Registration, and after that form your own opinion, and if you recognise the good it will do in the future, do your share in the work in the present.

"Every member of the nursing profession has a great responsibility with regard to the future of Nurses and their profession, and it is the duty of one and all to make themselves acquainted with the true facts, and with the great need there is of amendment in the education, training, and examination of so-called trained nurses. State Registration will not, and cannot, remove all the evils we are suffering from, but if we gain it we shall know the minimum of training, &c., that will be required for a nurse to be registered, and we shall weed out those who do so much harm through not having any proper knowledge of nursing.

"To become well acquainted with all facts about State Registration, the articles in various nursing papers should be carefully studied, and the Report of the Select Committee, and also the two bills now ready to be presented to Parliament. Meetings should be attended, and the various speakers carefully listened to; make a special point of understanding the question to be voted on; have the courage of your opinions, and do not shirk the responsibility of voting; it is sad to read of crowded meetings and so few votes recorded. Our end will be gained by steady, quiet, plodding work. Do not leave all the drudgery to the few brave,

strong women, but let each nurse in her different grade undertake a definite piece of work, however small. Above all, be loyal to the cause, yet at the same time, be very considerate to those who, perhaps, do not agree with you on all points; do not think of them as foes, treat them with courtesy and consideration, showing them quietly and plainly what you know and mean, and in the end no doubt you will win them over to your side."

The article concludes by urging the members to be loyal to their Constitution and to remember that their motto is "Unity is Strength."

At a meeting of the Southport Division of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association the principle of State Registration for Nurses was approved. In approving the separate registration of midwifery nurses it was resolved "That they should be fully trained, and not registered after having had only three months' training at a lying-in hospital."

The Nursing Inquisition.

Much indignation amongst nurse members of the R.B.N.A. has been roused by the exclusion again, in the May number of its official organ, of letters sent for publication. The preposterous suggestion that the members of an Association have not the right to express their opinions in their own paper—for which they pay—could only have been advanced by the medical managers of the *Nurses' Journal*, who have the effrontery to scarifify nurse members in print, and in excluding replies to state, "We must reserve to ourselves the universally acknowledged Editorial rights, which in this case appertain not to an individual, but to a Committee specially appointed for the purpose!"

We can only regret that this shadowy authority permits one of its members, Dr. Comyns Berkeley, the Hon. Med. Secretary, to accuse nurse members of "lying" and then supports him in excluding refutations of his scandalous attempts at intimidation. One is not surprised to learn that eight Lady Consuls have resigned office, and that the very few women of any standing in the nursing profession who are still members of R.B.N.A. are declining to have any official connection with the Association whatever under the circumstances.

The correspondence of Miss Mary Burr with the Secretary of the Corporation, which appears in another column, proves the futility of honourable women attempting to work with its medical managers.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)