

Progress of State Registration.

Thursday was quite a Nurses' Registration Day. In the morning Mr. Sydney Holland valiantly led the "antis" in their reactionary campaign to the Privy Council Office, later Mr. Munro Ferguson introduced our Nurses' Registration Bill into the House of Commons, and in the evening all the self-governing Societies of Nurses affiliated to the National Council met together at a *Conversazione* at the Galleries of the Royal Society of British Artists in Suffolk Street, where the burning question was well to the fore.

At the Annual Meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the British Medical Association held on May 31st, amongst the matters referred to the division for consideration was the State Registration of Nurses. The following questions were submitted: "Does the Division approve in general of the method of registration for nurses proposed by the Select Committee of the House of Commons? Does the Division approve of the separate registration of midwifery nurses?" The objections stated by the Central Hospital Council for London against the State registration of nurses were read by the Secretary, and after discussion it became the finding of the meeting with one dissentient, "that the method proposed by the Select Committee of the House of Commons be not approved."

DEPUTATION TO LORD PRESIDENT OF PRIVY COUNCIL.

As we go to press, the Earl of Crewe, Lord President of the Council, is receiving a deputation against the Bill for the Registration of Nurses. The deputation which has been organised by Mr. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, will consist of himself, Mr. H. Harben, L.C.C., Dr. Allechin, and Dr. Kingston Fowler representing the Central Hospital Council, Sir Thomas Barlow (late London Hospital), Sir Frederick Treves (London Hospital), the Duchess of Bedford, the Marchioness of Salisbury, the Countess of Pembroke, Viscountess St. Aldwyn, Lady Rayleigh, Lady Northcliffe, wife of proprietor of *Daily Mail*, the Hon. Maude Stanley, Mrs. J. A. Spender, wife of the editor of the *Westminster Gazette*, and the matrons of the London Hospital, St. Thomas's, King's, St. Mary's, the Seamen's, Greenwich, St. Marylebone Infirmary, Royal Infirmary, Derby, Royal Infirmary, Bristol (trained London Hospital), Radcliffe

Infirmary, Oxford (trained London Hospital), Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge (trained London Hospital).

A HOSPITAL GOVERNORS' TRUST.

When the aristocracy of rank and wealth combine to oppose the co-operation of a class of workers for legal protection and status, one may be quite certain that the workers are asking for what is right and just; and with courage and tenacity of purpose, it is also certain that such demands must be conceded sooner or later.

The Central Hospital Council for London—composed, as it is, of rich men who govern the large hospitals and thus employ large numbers of women workers—is a very dangerous Hospital Governors' Trust, against whose autocratic power our legislators must protect us. Moreover, this Council uses charitable money, to oppose and intimidate its employées.

EMPLOYERS OPPOSE CANADIAN NURSES' BILL.

The Executive Board of the Ontario Trained Nurses' Association have felt compelled to take the responsible step of withdrawing the Nurses' Registration Bill before the third reading, a step deeply regretted by every nurse interested in her profession throughout the Dominion.

This action became necessary owing to the interested opposition of certain hospital managers and medical men, led by the Rev. Archdeacon Carey, President of the Board of the Kingston General Hospital. The amendments proposed to the Bill, especially in the constitution of the Governing Council, were so pernicious that no legislation for a time appeared preferable to bad legislation, "the majority of the Executive Board felt there was nothing left but to withdraw the Bill, that they could not support a measure which would put the absolute control of nursing affairs in the hands of a Council of fifteen, only seven of these nurses, and which would register nurses without examination should the hospital from which they graduated be approved by the above Council; a Council, remember, of which the majority was to be composed of doctors and members of hospital boards; that it would be lowering their standards should they agree to these conditions, and that the profession would lose, not gain, should the Bill become law."

It will be seen, therefore, that the position and protest of Ontario nurses is exactly that which we are making in this country against the Bill drafted by the Hon. Medical Officers of the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)