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## Editorial.

### FEVER NURSES AND STATE REGISTRATION.

An important letter from Dr. Biernacki, Medical Superintendent of the Plaistow Hospital, on the position of Fever Nurses under a Nurses' Registration Act, will be found in another column. The pamphlet to which Dr. Biernacki therein refers bears the title of "Fever Nurses and State Registration," and is published by H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street, W.C., price 1d. In it the writer discusses, from the standpoint of one intimately acquainted with the subject, the claim of fever nurses to recognition, and the practicability of granting to nurses already holding a general diploma, who have had special training in fever nursing, a supplementary diploma in this branch. We should like before discussing the pamphlet to draw special attention to the belief expressed by Dr. Biernacki that the salvation of these nurses lies in their own hands. For this reason he addresses his remarks to nurses and to them alone.

#### STATE REGISTRATION IS COMING.

The pamphlet opens with these significant words: "The State Registration of Nurses is coming. When it does come, only those who hold the diploma and whose names appear on the register will be officially recognised as qualified. Registration will become the sole mark of efficiency." The writer then advises fever nurses that it is time they looked to their position, and that they have to decide whether their special training is entitled to recognition in any form when State Registration is adopted. "If they have this right it is for them to support a scheme that will admit them to the register. It must be a scheme which they can themselves accept unanimously. It must also appeal, as a reasonable and

workable scheme to all who are concerned in the future of nursing as a general question."

The object of the pamphlet under consideration is to outline such a scheme.

#### POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION.

Dr. Biernacki puts forward for discussion the following questions:—

1. Have fever nurses a special claim to recognition on the score of number?
2. Given that they are numerous enough to demand attention, have they also a claim on the ground that their work is specialised?
3. If their work has become specialised, what training in it is required to ensure efficiency?
4. Could every general nurse be compelled to undergo such training before she registers?
5. If not, could the special training be recognised by a supplementary diploma, one that could only be gained by nurses already holding the general diploma?

The position taken up by Dr. Biernacki is:—

1. That fever nursing is an important branch of municipal service that can hardly be left out of account if its members have special qualifications, and registration is to be a guarantee of efficiency.
2. That fever work has become highly specialised. Measures are now requisite in the nursing of fever cases, which those trained in general hospitals have little chance of practising. A nurse who has happened on some acute infectious cases during her general training, and has a knowledge of the use of germicides in surgical work, is far from being a fever nurse in the modern sense. Only the nurse who has been specially trained can claim recognition as such.
3. In connection with the fever training

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