

The Public Meeting in Support of State Registration of Trained Nurses.

In spite of the influenza fiend the Public Meeting in support of State Registration of Trained Nurses at the Caxton Hall, on Friday, 21st inst., was largely attended by an interested audience, and the support accorded to the movement on the platform was very representative. A professional touch was given to the proceedings by the presence of the stewards in neat and dainty indoor uniforms which were greatly admired.

Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, who presided, first called on the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to read letters of apology and support.

LETTERS OF APOLOGY AND SUPPORT.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said: We have received a very large number of kind letters and telegrams from Matrons and Nurses whose official duties prevent them from attending this meeting.

Miss Isla Stewart, President of the Society, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, writes from Florence:

"It is a very great disappointment to me that I am unable to be present at the meeting at Caxton Hall on the 21st February.

"The State Registration of Trained Nurses is a matter I have much at heart. It is the only means by which the public can be sure of obtaining the skilled nursing so necessary in serious illness, and to the trained nurse the recognition of her work as skilled labour is a mere act of justice which she has a right to demand.

"I must congratulate those present at the meeting in having Lady Helen Munro Ferguson in the chair. No one can put the question more clearly or more eloquently. I trust that her words will not be in vain, and that this meeting will advance the cause so effectually that before long we may see our Bill passed through the House of Commons."

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, President Irish Nurses' Association, writes from Dublin:

"I write on behalf of the Irish Nurses' Association, the members of which keenly regret that they are unable to be present at the meeting in support of State Registration on the 21st inst. They desire that I should forward to you the following resolution, which has just been passed with great cordiality by the meeting here assembled.

"RESOLUTION.

"The Irish Nurses' Association is more than ever convinced of the necessity of State Examination and Registration for the protection of Nurses and also of the public. This Association earnestly hopes that your meeting will urge His Majesty's Government to legislate upon this matter of national importance without further delay."

Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., Chairman of the Select Committee on State Registration, absent

through family illness, writes to the Chairman:

"I am glad to think you have so good a platform to urge the case for registration, and that I shall not be missed. I hope you will not fail to remind those present that an independent Committee of eleven Members, wholly unacquainted with the subject when they first began to hear evidence in 1904, after listening to the whole case from supporters and opponents of registration, deliberately agreed 'that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a central body appointed by the State,' and that 'no person should be entitled to assume the designation of 'Registered Nurse' whose name is not upon the Register.

"Trusting there may be a unanimous and enthusiastic gathering."

The Right Hon. James R. Campbell, K.C., M.P. for Dublin University (late Solicitor-General for Ireland), telegraphs:

"Regret inability to attend meeting; wish your project every success."

Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., writes:

"I extremely regret that owing to the number and urgency of other public calls upon my time at the present moment I find myself absolutely unable to add to their number, and I am therefore unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting on February 21st in aid of State Registration of Nurses.

"The object of the meeting has, and always has had, my entire sympathy."

Dr. Langley Browne, F.R.C.S., Member of the General Medical Council, writes:

"I am very sorry that I cannot attend the meeting on Friday, but it is impossible for me to leave.

"I cannot understand the opposition to State Registration. It would secure efficient training for nurses, and bring reform to many hospitals. It is desired by a very large majority of the medical profession, as it would give immediate information about the nurses' training and qualifications. It is the only way by which trained nurses can distinguish themselves from those who are untrained and unfit. If legislation had been sought for by a large body of educated men for some similar purpose it would have been granted years ago, and it is only another instance of the unfair way in which women are treated by the other sex that you have not yet attained your object.

"I hope most sincerely that State Registration will soon be established, and that through a Nursing Council (on which, though the Medical Profession and patient would be represented, the nurses would have a majority) you will be able to show how well you can manage the whole regulation of the Nursing Profession."

The Countess of Dudley, Vice-President of the Society, writes that it is a matter of special regret to her that she is unable to be present as she is keenly interested in the subject of the State Registration of Nurses. It is only her unavoidable absence abroad that prevents her being present.

Viscount Morpeth, M.P., a Member of the Select Committee on State Registration, writes:

"I am sorry I cannot come to your meeting on Friday. I am fully in sympathy with your proposal and should have come had I been able."

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