

tion of Graduate Nurses, at Lexington, U.S.A., is so admirable we could wish doctors, nurses, and legislators would learn it by heart. By printing some of his salient arguments, we give them the chance:—

“The art of medicine, ever struggling upward in the effort to become an exact science, has become so broad and complex that the physician is no longer able, unaided, to properly serve his patients. In his dilemma he has found growing up, coincident with his need, a sister profession, complementing and supplementing his own, and upon which depends sometimes more than upon his own skill the well-being of the sick in his charge. Mark you, a profession—no longer a trade, no longer merely skilled labour, but an art; a profession, though without an anchor, without a standard of conduct, without a code of ethics, without protection, without regulated responsibilities, and without official recognition.

“Recognising these conditions and needs, the nursing profession has, through pressure both from without and within, begun to solidify and organise. It has formed local, State, and national associations, and has begun to seek the authority of the State. Like all new movements, this is meeting with opposition from the ignorant and the prejudiced. It is, therefore, well to consider some of the reasons for a law providing for the State registration of nurses.

“In the first place, our patients need it; their comfort, the peace of their families, their reputations, even their very lives, are in the hands of the nurse, and the situation has so grown that neither the family nor the physician can always know the qualities of the nurse in the case. Then, too, the doctor needs a helper who is so thoroughly efficient and of such matured and broadened character that he knows she will carry out his directions to the letter and in the spirit, that she will be able to meet emergencies and that she will make such records and observations during his absence from the case as to advance the scientific side of both their professions.

“Most of all, does the nurse need State registration; she needs it for the esprit de corps that comes with it; for the personal stimulation and broadened view-point that it brings; for the opportunities of helping those below her and attaining to the standard of those above her that grow out of it; for the power it gives her to protect the public and her profession against persons who, though discharged in disgrace from good schools, practice as graduates of such schools, or who, taking a short cut in massage, claim to have had a full course in nursing, who lie outright and *in toto*. And, most of all, does the nurse need State registration to enable her to still further improve and unify the curricula of training schools, for no matter what rules an association may devise for the purification of its membership, the only efficient means is the bar at its entrance.”

The Registered Nurses Society.

ANNUAL MEETING.

A very satisfactory Report of a successful year's work was presented to the members of the Registered Nurses' Society, at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting held at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Friday, the 10th inst. Dr. Bedford Fenwick was in the chair.

The audited accounts showed that £10,240 6s. 4d. had been received, this being an increase of upwards of £1,000 upon last year's receipts, and during the year 1,022 cases had been attended. A large number of medical practitioners had employed the nurses for the first time, while those for whom they had previously worked had continued to give the Society their valuable support.

Many of the staff had worked hard for the cause of State Registration, and had followed the progress of the Nurses' Bill in the House of Lords with keen interest. The Committee had been glad to help on this important work by placing the Board Room at 431, Oxford Street, at the disposal of the Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and also of societies working on the same lines, for which purpose it had proved a most convenient centre.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Sisters Spreadbury, Beardsley, and Rhodes were elected to fill the vacancies by rotation on the Executive Committee.

THE BENEFIT OF CO-OPERATION.

The Chairman spoke earnestly to the members present on the importance of professional co-operation, and said the great progress made by the Society during the past year could not have been accomplished without loyalty to the Society by the majority of the members. He pointed out that to take their rightful place in the National Council of Nurses they would be wise to found a self-governing League of Registered Nurses, as before long nursing would be recognised and organised as a profession by the State. It was proposed and seconded and agreed by those present that a League should be formed, and a meeting should be called after the holidays to consider the question.

After votes of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Fenwick and Sister Cartwright, for their continued work for the Society, the meeting terminated. Tea was then served, and the one topic of conversation was the Nurses' Registration Bill, and the wonderful progress made this Session towards the realisation of their ambition for State organisation and control. “Don't be

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