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## Editorial.

### STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The efficiency of the trained nurse is a matter of vital importance to the community. It is, therefore, in the public interest that the professional education of nurses should be thorough, that they should submit to an independent test of their capacity when trained, and that the names of those who successfully pass this test should be entered on a Register maintained under State authority.

Such a system will benefit the medical profession because it will enable medical practitioners to discriminate between the skilled and the unskilled worker, and it will benefit nurses because it will introduce system and order into their ranks through the establishment of a central Governing Body; but the *raison d'être* of such organisation is that the public shall be efficiently served.

We are glad, therefore, that the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland will, on Wednesday next, at its annual meeting at Aberdeen, consider the following resolution:—

That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland considers that it is desirable, both in the interests of the professional status of trained nurses and of the public who use their services, that provision should be made for their registration by the State; such registration to be under the supervision of a Central Board, upon which nurses shall have direct and adequate representation.

The principle of Registration of Trained Nurses has been approved by the Legislation Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, but the question has never as yet been considered by the Governing Body of the Union. The Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has now passed its second Reading in the House of Lords, where it was introduced by Lord Ampthill, and is down for further discussion on October

15th. It may seem, therefore, a little late for the N.U.W.W. to begin to consider the question; but, no one could have foreseen, when the Resolution standing in the name of Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, a Vice-President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, on its behalf, was put down for consideration at Aberdeen, on October 14th, that the Nurses' Registration Bill would be awaiting its third reading in the House of Lords on the following day.

The interest of individual members of the N.U.W.W. was amply attested by the letter in support of State Registration of Trained Nurses which, at the instance of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, was signed by many notable women, including some of the most honoured members of the N.U.W.W., sent to each member of the House of Lords, and widely circulated in the press before the second reading of the Bill, on July 6th. The public discussion of the subject, especially when introduced by so able an exponent as Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, must augment that interest and support, and we hope the practical outcome will be that a rider is added to the Resolution urging the Premier to give facilities to the Bill in the House of Commons this Session.

If the Bill goes down to the House of Commons having secured the assent of the House of Lords its position will be a very strong one. A Select Committee of the House of Commons has unanimously reported in favour of a system of State Registration of Nurses. Thousands of trained nurses are earnestly petitioning for such registration, the British Medical Association comprising over 20,000 medical practitioners has on three occasions passed resolutions in its favour, and the Bill has secured support on all sides of the House.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)