

## NURSES REGISTRATION.

### SUPPORT OF BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in London on Friday, July 23rd, 1915, and following days, and in the Annual Report of the Council, which appears in the *B.M.J.* last week, we are pleased to note that careful consideration has been given by the Council to the following Minute 125. Resolved:—

That this meeting views with concern the increasing number of insufficiently trained nurses, and instructs the Council to call upon the Government, and the other authorities concerned, to take steps to remedy the evil.

The Council has drawn the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the late Chairman of the Joint Committee of the National Health Insurance Commission to the opinion expressed in the above Minute, in connection with the proposed provision of a nursing service which was projected by the Government in connection with the Insurance Acts previous to the outbreak of War. The Council is of opinion that the number of untrained nurses who are able to obtain employment is due partly to there being an insufficient supply of trained nurses, and that this deficiency would be remedied by anything which improved the status, and increased the attractions, of the nursing profession. In the opinion of the Council, therefore, the restriction of the number of insufficiently trained nurses will be best brought about by the Association and other bodies interested continuing their efforts to obtain State Registration of Nurses.

This is an expression of opinion with which we heartily agree, and, further, we consider that as the efficient nursing and safety of sick people is an imperative duty of the State, the British Medical Association might well force the hand of the Government, as no Government dare flout determined public action upon the part of the medical profession, in demanding protection for the community from dangerously incapable and often fraudulent attendants in sickness, thus trifling with the general standard of national health, and in consequence with the future stability of the Empire. Sound health is the fundamental basis of every nation's security, the source of its energy, and it is energy which generates every form of fitness. Give us an army of health missionaries with sound, tested knowledge, able to enforce the sanitary law and domestic science, and we shall keep on top.

## CANADIAN RED CROSS NURSES.

The party of Canadian Red Cross Nurses, whose arrival in this country we announced in our last issue, were on Thursday, May 6th, entertained at an afternoon reception at 35, Belgrave Square, S.W., by Lady Paget, who received her guests with the graciousness and charm which have made her one of the most popular of hostesses, at once making them feel the warmth of the welcome extended to them not only by herself but by the Mother Country which they hold in such love and loyalty, and at whose disposal the Dominion of Canada has placed their highly skilled services. It is noticeable that they express no desire to be sent to this place or that, but wish just to be used wherever they are most wanted.

To meet the nurses Lady Paget had invited the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, Adeline, Duchess of Bedford (Chairman of the Queen's Ladies' Committee at St. John's Gate), Lady Strathcona, Lady Mountstephen, Lady Perrott (who was wearing the uniform of her rank as Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of Nursing Corps and Divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigade), the Hon. Sir George Perley (High Commissioner for Canada in this country) and Lady Perley, Lady Grey, Lady Jekyll, Lady Sloggett, Mrs. Lewis Harcourt, and Mrs. Lionel Guest (herself a Canadian); Sir William Osler also looked in for a few moments but was too busy to stay for long. At this delightful gathering we had the opportunity of meeting all the nurses, with some of whom we had already made acquaintance, and of hearing something of their plans as they foregathered in the beautiful dining room, and after a tiring day thoroughly enjoyed the delicious tea which nurses at all times love, but which they were agreed is to be found in the greatest perfection in this country.

It is impossible for trained nurses to be strangers to one another for long, and when one had as mutual friends and acquaintances such famous Canadian nurses as the late Mrs Hampton Robb, great-hearted pioneer of nursing organisation in America, Professor Adelaide Nutting, of Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, both of whom Canada gave to the States, Miss M. A. Snively of Toronto, first President of the Canadian National Council of Nurses, Miss Wilson of Winnipeg, and many others, we quickly fraternised, agreeing that it was an honour to belong to the profession which included women of such nobility of character and aim in its ranks. Nor did we forget Miss Lavinia Dock, who, as Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, has identified herself with, and belongs to, all the nurses of all the nationalities included in that great organisation.

The moment quickly came when the nurses bade adieu to their kind hostess, whose gracious hospitality had given them so much pleasure, and they carried away with them, as souvenirs of the afternoon, two charming patriotic poems given them and composed by the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos.

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