

But it was, as we have said, clearly understood that, in order to make the Registration of Nurses of complete value to the profession and to the public, it would be necessary that the work should sooner or latter be carried on with more or less compulsory powers; in other words, that it must be carried on by a public body invested by Parliament with the necessary legal authority.

The first step then was taken by the publication of the Register of Trained Nurses. The second was achieved when a Royal Charter was granted authorizing the Corporation to form and maintain such a list of skilled workers, and declaring that such a work was of public benefit and utility. The third and final stage has been opened when an important meeting of representative professional workers has formally and publicly adopted a resolution, "That it is necessary that an Act of Parliament should be sought for, to provide for the uniform training, the uniform examination, and the legal registration of Nurses."

Such a pronouncement from such a source raises the question altogether into the region of practical politics, and the details of such a measure as that proposed may, therefore, be henceforth considered open for discussion. It may be, and it probably will be, years before the Act of Parliament will be obtained; but, at any rate, the fact that an Act will sooner or later be sought for, may now be taken to be definitely settled.

Meanwhile, we must congratulate the Matrons' Council upon the remarkable success which it has achieved, and which must be held to be owing, not only to the fact that the new Society will fill a want which has been widely felt, but also to the admirable business arrangements and organization prepared by the Chairman of the Council, Miss ISLA STEWART, and by Mrs. ANDREWS, its Hon. Secretary. We learn with much pleasure, but with no surprise, that the first meeting of the Council held on November the 1st, and which will be found reported in another column, no less than sixty-seven Matrons of large London and Provincial Hospitals and Nursing Institutions applied for membership and were duly elected.

It may be safely asserted, therefore, considering the comparatively small number of Matrons of Hospitals in England and Wales, that the fact that so many have already joined the Council proves not only the need which has been felt for such a Society, but also that its objects will commend themselves as useful and desirable, to Matrons generally.

We have much pleasure in drawing the attention of every Matron in the Kingdom, this week, to the excellent objects of the Council, to the great success which it has already achieved, and to the advisability of every eligible worker who values her profession becoming a member of the new Society in order to

take part in its discussion and its work, and so, while giving her own advice and assistance to others, to receive herself the benefits which everyone must derive from belonging to a powerful professional body.

GOLD MINES.

We are quite accustomed now to hear, every week, of the discovery of fresh gold-fields. Western Australia, Matabeleland, Colorado, even Wales, are all asserting their possession of greater or smaller quantities of the precious metal. It has been left, however, to the frugal and evidently practical American to discover an entirely new field for gold. It is stated gravely that each year gold is placed in the teeth of Americans, to the estimated extent of nearly a million dollars; that the work of American dentists is so excellent that quite half of the teeth so preserved will be buried with their possessors, and that, consequently, every ten years one million pounds worth of gold will thus be interred in the cemeteries. From this chain of reasoning has been evolved the proposal that a Cemetery Exploration Company should be started to recover from the ground this amount of lost treasure. The idea would seem impossible to anyone except to the hunter after the almighty dollar; and it is, perhaps, possible that the rumour is only an instance of American humour, and nothing more sacrilegious.

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

Whatever the Press may say, women are evidently becoming a growing power in politics, and their influence is thrown in the balance on behalf of purity and reform. In England, this has been recently exemplified in a very marked manner, and from New York comes the news of an equally important crusade. Tammany Hall signifies to many in this country, and to all sections in America, public and private corruption. It represents a ring of persons who have largely controlled the election to high official posts in New York, and who have used the power they have thus acquired in the promotion of the worst forms of commercial jobbery. The women of New York, it appears, have united in order to oppose this evil, and in the present election for the Mayoralty they announced their intention to do their best to bring about the defeat of the Tammany candidate. As they have succeeded in this endeavour—and they have certainly received, in it, the support of all good men and true—they have earned the thanks of all who value commercial probity and good local government. They have probably saved New York from a moral cancer which many of the best class of Americans have long deplored and which, in their opinion, has been sapping slowly and steadily the political and parochial honour of the community.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)