

time was not ripe to register Nurses. It was impossible to command a sufficient number of three years' Nurses to enter Infirmaries. The salaries offered were not good enough to tempt thoroughly trained Nurses. She thought Midwives should not be included in a scheme for the Registration of Nurses.

Mr. PRITCHARD made a long speech, dealing chiefly with the advantage of directories for Nurses.

Miss ANNESLEY KENEALY said she thought the time had now come when the Nurses could appeal to the medical profession for aid to enable them to eliminate the quack element from the Nursing, as it had been from the medical profession. While she thought that men could never legislate for women as well as women could do it for themselves, she thought that it would be mainly through medical men that the status of Nursing would be raised. The Nurses asked them for help to enable them to organise and improve their calling. Perhaps Nurses had been too modest, and, therefore, had not been accorded what was due to them on the principle that "those who don't ask don't want." But the time had now come when Nurses must emerge from the "modest violet" stage, and protect themselves from the ever-increasing army of quack Nurses who were doing as much to injure the Nursing profession as did the unqualified practitioner to injure medicine when there were no Medical Acts to which they could be made amenable.

Miss ISLA STEWART said, as Chairman of the Matrons' Council, she represented between seventy and eighty Matrons of important British Hospitals, who were almost unanimously in favour of Registration of Nurses by the State. Speaking from the industrial point of view, she deplored the circumstances which enabled a woman of only three months' training to gain the regulation two guineas a week, in competition with a woman who had devoted perhaps four years to her education. She thought a Parliamentary Act would make it much more difficult for untrained Nurses to practise, because the public would by means of compulsory Registration know who was trained and who was not.

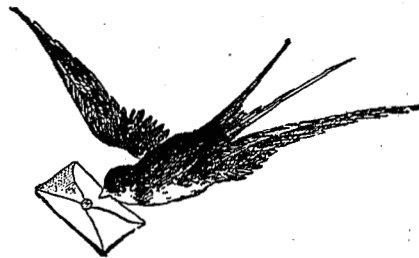
The CHAIRMAN, in order to test the feeling of the Delegates on the question of the advisability of State Registration, put the question to the vote, when—

Miss Wedgwood (Delegate from the Royal British Nurses' Association), Mr. Fardon (Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association), Miss Wilson (Hon. Secretary Midwives' Institute), Mr. Burdett (National Pension Fund for Nurses), Mr. Pritchard (Plaistow Home for Nurses), and one other, voted *against* Registration by Act of Parliament.

Miss Stewart (Matrons' Council), Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (Registered Nurses' Society), Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Breay (St. John's House), and Miss Annesley Kenealy voted in favour of State Registration.

The other Representatives present did not vote on either side.

The various members of the Parliamentary Bills Committee present appeared to favourably entertain the suggestion of State Registration of Nurses in the future.



Our Foreign Letter.

NURSING LIFE IN SPAIN.

I SUPPOSE the charm of being abroad will seldom lose its attraction to a Nurse. Nursing appears to assume quite another aspect if it is under sunny skies. So far, I share that opinion, and would still, after several years of Nursing abroad, seek "fresh fields and pastures new" in other countries. It is only when the unconquerable homesickness comes that the most comfortable surroundings or sunny skies fail to make up for the old country. But it was under varied circumstances and miles away from pastures of any kind that Nursing was done where I was in Andalusia. We had torrential rains for several weeks at a stretch, and vegetation was conspicuous by its absence, except the stumpy wild palm, which was all one could see from El Hospital Las Minas de Rio Tinto. Glorious sunsets from the wild bare hills compensated in part for our want of vegetation, but we never quite reconciled ourselves to the inevitable. The Hospital was built on one of these hills, on a flat piece of land called "La Mesa," meaning a table. It certainly was as flat as a table on the top, which overlooked the town, consisting only of a few streets, the most select being paved with large pieces of slag, which from continued traffic became so glazed that mules and donkeys, laden with every class of goods, could with difficulty keep their foothold, although they seldom actually fell down. It was in the street that the daily market was held, each merchant (!) seated in front of his or her merchandise, a few live fowls, tied together by their legs, lying on one side, eggs, &c., spread around her on another, fruit, vegetables, garbanzos (a sort of bean or chick-pea, used always in the daily dish of "puchero," a hotch-potch), tocino (very fat pork), having their separate stalls on either side of the street. Servants all enjoyed the early morning walk to "La Plaza," the events of yesterday, the probable or improbable events of to-day being discussed *ad lib.*, and the most extraordinary accounts of persons and things came from "La Plaza." Dogs of the most mongrel description took a busy part, and prowled around, especially near the stalls of the butchers, where macho (goat) was sold to those who could afford to buy it. I need not say goat was not approved of amongst the English community. Mutton, pork, and beef were sold at certain seasons of the year, the latter always the day after a bull fight. I cannot answer from personal experience of the quality; we wisely refrained from taking beef on those occasions, but I was told it was very good. A well-made road led up from this animated scene to the Hospital, and it was to me a very novel sight at first to see the women carrying the large baskets of the day's provisions on their heads, or the girls with cantaros of water, looking very picturesque in their short skirts and coloured handkerchiefs.

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