

WE have received several valuable letters during the past few months on the ever-interesting subject of "Registration," with which we propose to deal at some future date. But one containing the following suggestion meets with our warm sympathy — "No unprejudiced person," says our correspondent, "who attended the late Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, could fail to observe how absolutely out of sympathy are the present officials with the objects for which the Association was founded—Legal Status, Self-Help, Personal and Professional responsibility, Higher Education, &c., and the rank and file of the new members themselves, have evidently little or no knowledge of what *professional co-operation* means. One member who sat near me spoke to her neighbour to the following effect: "I don't understand what it all means; what's it matter whether we are registered or not, as long as we are on a good 'Co.' that keeps us in work. Any way, I hope we shall have a jolly good lunch and tea." It is very saddening to find such a terribly low estimate of our Association's work can possibly be held and expressed—"a jolly good lunch and tea." But there are now a number of thoughtful educated women in the Nursing ranks, and it is their duty to elevate the profession to which they belong. I have thought much of this since the Annual Meeting, and it appears to me that since the leaders of Nursing thought and control have been compelled to retire from the governing body of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and have therefore no power to help us (we now have a Council upon which only the name of Miss Thorold, of Middlesex Hospital, remains, of all the Matrons of our London Training Schools), we Nurses who joined the Royal British Nurses' Association, to obtain legal status, might form ourselves into a body *for this purpose only*. The fact brought out in your editorial last week that, at a meeting to consider the question, Mr. Fardon and Miss Wedgewood voted *against the principle* of State Registration for Nurses, proves that our Association is now being used *against* our interests, instead of *for* them. Would it not be possible to have a meeting of those Nurses who wish for, and are willing to work for, this reform? Many doctors, both in London and the country, to whom I have spoken, are quite in sympathy with State Registration for thoroughly qualified Nurses, and such a Society as I suggest would gain the

support of many Nurses who wisely refuse to put themselves under the heel of Sir James Crichton Browne and his official colleagues."

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We have no doubt that the suggestion of our correspondent will receive consideration upon the part of our many thoughtful readers. Everything that is worth winning is worth working for.

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IN the "Open Address to the Profession of England and Wales," issued by Dr. Thomas Dolan, of Halifax, expressing his views as a candidate for election as a Direct Representative upon the General Medical Council, he says *re* the Midwives question:

"We recognise the absolute necessity of providing some kind of legislation on this subject, but we shall not support any Bill which will inaugurate a distinct and inferior order of medical profession. The poor have a right to the best advice in the period of travail. The poorest can have it now. Practitioners with double qualifications are in the Poor Law service, and what we want is the humanising of the Poor Law, so that women should not dread applying for medical aid. At the present time there is no need for any woman in England to be unattended by a medical man. There are more than abundance of qualified practitioners at the public disposal for fees which are merely honorary."

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On the question of Registration of Nurses Dr. Dolan's expression of opinion will be gladly welcomed by those members of the Royal British Nurses' Association who have remained true to the principles upon which their Association was founded; and, taking into consideration the active and practical interest Dr. Dolan has for many years shown in the training of Nurses, and his sympathy with their work, his opinion is worthy of wide notice.

"We are in favour of the Registration of all Nurses who have undergone three years' training, and we should very much prefer, if possible, a comprehensive Bill, which would deal with midwifery as well as all classes of Nurses. A midwife ought to be trained for three years. Now training of three or six months is deemed sufficient. The profession is agreed on the necessity of legislation."

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No doubt these difficult questions will be ultimately set at rest by the inauguration of a statesmanlike policy, outlined in a comprehensive Bill. Medical men justly object to the three-months trained midwife being legally transformed into an inferior order of practitioner; and duly qualified Nurses object no less strongly to a woman with no practical experience of their responsible duties being classed as a "trained Nurse." It would be certainly advisable to adopt the thoroughly practical solution of one difficulty suggested by Miss Margaret Breay in her paper on the "Evolution of the

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