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### Editorial.

#### LEGAL STATUS FOR NURSES IN NEW ZEALAND.

IT is with the greatest pleasure that we print in another column a Bill for the Registration of Nurses in New Zealand, which is now before the Legislature of that country, the more so as it bears *prima facie* evidence that the assistance and advice of trained nurses have been sought and utilized in drafting it.

The points to which we would specially direct attention are—(1) the enforcement of the three years' standard of training and certification, or (2) the acceptance for registration, on the first passing of the Act, of nurses who have worked for four years in hospital, providing that they can pass an examination conducted by a central examining board. Further, an important proviso is, that to be eligible for registration nurses must have received their professional education in a Training School, where the Matron is a trained and certificated nurse. We note also that after a given date the certificate awarded by the central examining body must supersede that of individual hospitals, the outcome of which will

be to ensure a uniform curriculum of training and of nursing education throughout the colony.

The next point to be noted is that the Bill is so worded that women as well as men are eligible for membership of the Examining Board. We may hope therefore that the Superintendents of the more important training schools will be deputed by the Governor to seats on this Board, so that a detailed examination in practical nursing may form an important part of the State examination, for in any adequate test of the efficiency of nurses practice and theory must go hand in hand.

Should this Bill become law New Zealand will have the honour of being the only country besides Cape Colony where State Registration of Nurses is in force.

The later Colony owes its registration to the efforts of Sister Henrietta, to whom Cape Colony owes much for her pioneer nursing work. This Bill, however, was drafted ten years ago, as part of the Medical and Pharmacy Act of 1891, and under it the registration of Nurses is undertaken by the Cape Medical Council, the nurses having no degree of self-government.

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