

The Government have prepared a Bill for the State registration of nurses, and the effect will be, if it passes, to lead to an organization of all who are properly qualified. Their names will be annually published by the State. This is the only method by which the nursing profession can be placed in such a position as will enable it to remedy the evils which are rapidly invading it, and secure the advantages and public confidence which it so fully deserves.

No interference whatever is intended with the right of every person to employ whatever nursing he may desire. The State limits itself to giving a reliable list of nurses properly trained and tested by State examinations.

D. MACGREGOR, M.A., M.B.

News of the President of the International Council and of Congress Delegates.

News has been received of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Mollett, and Miss Cartwright from Quebec, which they made their first stopping place. They had a good voyage and saw a record number of icebergs. They stayed in Quebec from Friday, September 6th, to the following Monday, and then went on to Montreal. While at Quebec they visited the plains of Abraham, the French quarter, the falls of Montmorency, and other points of interest in the quaint, old city. From Quebec they went on to Montreal, which they made their headquarters, and visited Ottawa, and the Lachine rapids. Then they proceeded to Toronto, where Mrs. Fenwick was the guest of Miss Snively, at the General Hospital, and on the invitation of Dr. Ross Robertson, Chairman of the Children's Hospital, Miss Mollett and Miss Cartwright were most hospitably entertained by that institution at the Queen's Hotel. On Saturday, the 14th, the party were to arrive at Buffalo.

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death from angina pectoris of Miss Emily Armstrong Stoney, whose valuable book on Bacteriology and Surgical Technique for Nurses we reviewed last week. The circumstances of her death are pathetic in the extreme. Five weeks before it occurred Miss Stoney went to a private boarding-house at Madison, Wis., with the object of obtaining a much-needed rest, as well as quietness to complete a new book. The first that the nursing profession in Madison knew of her presence was a notice in the daily paper notifying her sudden death. She was followed to the grave by six nurses resident in Madison.

Nursing Echoes.

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The meetings of the International Council of Nurses, as well as the International Nurses' Congress, to which we have been looking forward for so long, have been taking place this week at Buffalo. A short time must necessarily elapse before we can give a report of the proceedings, but we hope to do so in an early issue. It is inevitable that the national sorrow in the United States should cast a shadow over the Congress, but it may well intensify the earnestness of its meetings.

The "Fronde" in a recent issue had an admirable article signed Maximilienne Biais on the International Congress of Nurses. Mdlle. Biais points out that the profession of a nurse, as it exists in Anglo-Saxon countries, and in those which have followed in their footsteps, is almost unknown in France. Further, that though, since the hospitals have been placed under lay control, lay nurses have been employed in the place of religious sisters, they are mostly of an uneducated type. The superintendents of nursing are drawn from a somewhat higher class, but their office is to maintain good order amongst the staff rather than to act as the assistants of the physicians and surgeons.

Nurses, as we understand the word, are described as generally intelligent—often very well educated. They are thus well prepared to receive technical instruction given in nursing schools, and to observe scientific methods in their care of patients. It is therefore easy, says Mlle. Biais to understand the superiority of nursing organized on these lines to that of the French system, where the work is performed, whether it is in the hands of lay nurses or religious sisters, by very ignorant women, who are consequently a danger to the sick.

This explanation is given because "this intellectual superiority of nurses will explain the high degree of association remarked amongst them, and which is indicated by the programme of the International Council and the present Congress."

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