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Editorial.

LEGAL STATUS FOR NURSES IN NEW ZEALAND.

WE publish in another column the text of the Bill which provides for the Registration of Trained Nurses in New Zealand. This is now the second British Colony in which legal status has been granted to nurses, and in each case a trained nurse has been a powerful factor in compelling attention to the need for legislation, while in regard to New Zealand, the thanks of the nursing profession are due also to Dr. MacGregor, the Inspector-General of Hospitals in that country, for had not this gentleman been most just and liberal-minded towards nurses, and used the great influence of his official position in favour of their registration, there would have been little hope of the adoption of this measure.

It is necessary that the enactments of a Bill for the registration of nurses should be liberal and elastic in order that no injustice may be shown to those nurses who have done good work in the past, but whose education was not in accordance with the present day standard. The Bill recently passed in New Zealand

appears to us to be a just one as a beginning as it enforces the three years' standard of training, while it provides for a period of grace, until December 31st, 1902, during which time nurses may be registered whose qualifications are in conformity with a standard prescribed by the Minister in charge of hospitals. At the end of the period of grace there is little doubt that the qualifications required of nurses before registration will be of the highest, and the standard of examination efficient both practically and theoretically. After January, 1902, no nurse in New Zealand will be eligible for registration who has not passed a state examination.

In putting into effect this most necessary reform the Government will no doubt be largely guided by the advice of Dr. MacGregor and his most able Assistant-Inspector, Mrs. Neill, and it is probable that to them will be relegated the duty of drawing up the syllabus for the State Examination.

We congratulate the nurses of New Zealand on the professional status accorded to them, while at the same time we would remind them that responsibility is inseparable from privilege, and that State Registration is the starting

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