

has conspicuously failed, as we have shown, to discharge the obligations imposed upon him by that trust. Instead of helping to unite all British nurses in a recognised profession, his methods have aroused such widespread distrust that Canadian nurses have joined hands with the United States instead of with the mother country; New Zealand, after fruitless efforts to come to terms with the R.B.N.A., has effected its own legal system of registration; Australia has organised independently—in short, Mr. Fardon's methods have produced complete disintegration amongst British nurses all over the world, and there is no doubt, however his friends may represent his resignation, that he has felt compelled by the force of public opinion to resign, and that no number of addresses engrossed on vellum can obliterate the universal verdict passed upon him—"Weighed in the balances and found wanting."

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

In his valedictory address as Medical Hon. Secretary, Mr. Fardon referred to the first years of his office, which were "passed in conflict." "We had," he said, "literally to fight our way inch by inch." We are proud to know this to be true, and that in spite of all coercion and intimidation there were members of the Association who were true to its principles, and contested "inch by inch" the unwarrantable methods by which the liberties of the nurse-members were wrenched from them by Mr. Fardon and his supporters. We can assure him that, if needs be, inch by inch the ground will again be contested, that a wave recedes only to gather fresh force, and returns to carry all before it with an irresistible impetus.

THE GREAT LESSON.

The great lesson which the nurses of the world have learnt from the disastrous results of medical autocracy in the Royal British Nurses' Association has been that at all costs the organisation of the nursing profession must be effected by the nurses themselves. It is universally recognised that until they have the courage and the power to control their professional affairs there is no hope of dignity, peace or progress in the ranks of British nurses.

A Plucky Rescue.

A plucky rescue, effected by a local hospital nurse, is reported from Pontefract. A boy of two years old had fallen into a pond and disappeared in the mud at the bottom of about 2½ feet of water. Miss Holman promptly jumped into the water, and, though she had considerable difficulty in discovering the whereabouts of the child, eventually brought him to land and carried him to an adjacent cottage, where artificial respiration was successfully performed.

The American Nursing World.

THE QUESTION OF STATE REGISTRATION.

(Continued from p. 98.)

The President called on Mrs. Hutchinson, President of the Illinois State Association, who addressed the convention as follows:—

THE WORK OF THE ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE NURSES.

The desirability of State registration for graduate nurses is unquestioned by all who wish to see trained nursing raised to a profession, not only for the benefit of the nursing world, but as a safeguard to the community at large, whose only means of recognising a nurse is by her uniform, the wearing of which is assumed by all sorts and conditions of nurses. With the great strides that have been made in medicine and surgery during the past decade there has been an increased demand for technical knowledge and training on the part of the nurse. In order to intelligently carry out the instructions of the modern physician, a specialisation is necessary which was not required some years ago. In the case of such common diseases as typhoid fever and pneumonia, which run a definite course irrespective of any treatment ever proposed, the painstaking scientific nurse requires a thorough knowledge of hygiene, dietetics, baths, and sanitary science.

That the public may have the benefit of this professional nursing is one of the prime objects of the legislation sought. With this sentiment abroad in the Alumnae Association of Illinois, the graduate nurses have been impelled to take steps to procure recognition by the State. The first movement looking towards the above result was taken when in response to a general invitation a mass meeting of 180 nurses, representing many training-schools, met in the Masonic Temple, Chicago. The present Illinois State Association is the outcome of that meeting. A constitution and by-laws have been adopted by the Association. The article claiming most of our time and attention relates to eligibility for membership. This has been freely discussed among us, with the recommendation from a special committee that a "two years' course in a general hospital of not fewer than fifty beds and where systematic courses of instruction are given" should be the minimum of requirement. The question will come before the Association for a vote at our next meeting.

The subject of admitting nurses who have had less than two years' training, but who by virtue of years of experience might be considered eligible, has been discussed, but no decision arrived at. In order to obtain any legislative sanction a Bill looking to State registration would have to include a provision stating that the above provisions, regardless of what they were, would not apply to those nurses already engaged in the practice of nursing who held a diploma from any training-school, competent to issue such a diploma. Any legislative measure which did not include this latter provision would be in the nature of an *ex post facto* law, and would certainly be bitterly contested and undoubtedly, if passed, would be vetoed or reversed by the courts. This view of the question seems just when one recalls that those women fulfilled the requirements existing at the time they graduated, and that through the pioneer efforts of these same nurses we are now able to demand a standard so much higher.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)