

In 1893 so high an authority as the late Sir James Paget wrote to the late Sir Henry Acland, who was strongly in favour of it, that it was only a question whether this State registration was to be granted at once or a few years hence. It lies with the general public to a large extent to determine, as demand is certain to be followed by supply. Hospital certificates do not meet the difficulty, as the public have no means of judging of their value. Each hospital training-school is a law unto itself, and only the initiated know how the teaching of nurses varies, not only in different hospitals, but in the various wards of the same hospital. It will be readily understood how teaching would be stimulated, especially in the smaller hospitals, were all nurses calling themselves trained required to reach a fixed minimum standard of attainment.—I am, &c.,

LOUISA STEVENSON,  
President of the Society for State  
Registration of Nurses.

The New Jersey State Nurses' Association has received the endorsement of the Medical Society of New Jersey. The following letter was prepared and presented at a recent meeting of the Medical Society:—

To the Medical Society of New Jersey:—At a stated meeting of the executive board of the New Jersey State Nurses' Association, a motion was passed to ask the endorsement of the objects of the Nurses' Association by the Medical Society of New Jersey.

The objects of this Association are:—The legislation and registration of nurses, the advancement of all interests which appertain to the betterment of the nursing profession; also a professional reciprocity between the nurses of New Jersey and the nurses of other States and countries.

The hearty and earnest co-operation and endorsement by your Society will greatly aid us, and cause the advancement of the nursing profession of New Jersey, thus raising the standard to a higher plane, and thereby eliminating many of the objectionable features which now exist.

Signed by Secretary and Executive Board.

The following letter has been received in reply:—

South Orange, N.J., July 15th, 1902.

Miss Effa Fahringer, Secretary.

Dear Miss Fahringer,—In reply to your communication of June 17th, addressed to the Medical Society of New Jersey, I would say I presented the communication to the Society, which then adopted the following resolution:

“Resolved, That we are in sympathy with the efforts of the nurses to establish a legally organised body, and approve of the objects of their Association.”

Trusting this may aid you,

I am very truly yours,

Signed, Wm. J. CHANDLER, M.D.,  
Recording Secretary.

At a recent meeting of the New York State Nurses' Association the discussion turned upon the proper title for a registered nurse, and the following distinctive letters to follow the name were sug-

gested:—G.N., graduate nurse; R.N., registered nurse; R.G.N., registered graduate nurse; C.N., certified nurse. The opinion of the Society on which of these titles is the best will be obtained by referendum before the next meeting, which is to be held in Rochester, N.Y., in October.

The Legislation Committee will also formulate a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses.

### Is Nursing Really a Profession?\*

BY A. WORCESTER, M.D.

(Continued from page 175.)

There are still other tests that we can apply in deciding this question if nursing is really a profession. Trades are most successfully pursued by those who first seek pecuniary returns. But professions can be successfully followed only by those whose primary incentive is higher. And in the application of this test I am sure all will agree that neither lawyers nor physicians can be found who, in their devotion to the law and to medicine, are more truly inspired than are modern nurses by genuine love for their calling. Probably some women have entered the training-schools attracted by the apparently high wages trained nurses receive. The old-time nurses were no doubt generally driven to nursing for their living. And probably it is at least equally true that men likewise sometimes have entered the legal and medical professions with the same motive. If the law schools and the medical schools paid their students monthly wages, still more would enter these schools simply for the money that might so be earned. A better method than this could hardly be imagined for attracting servants from service and for keeping out of the training-schools the ambitious daughters of self-respecting families. Even theological schools have found it necessary to give up bribing into student-ship those who cannot afford other professional education.

It is no wonder that, while schools for nurses find it necessary to pay their students money allowances, nursing is still so generally denied its proper professional status. But happily this custom is passing. And the best training-schools now offer their students, instead of wages, larger educational advantages. The natural result has followed. Young women whose education and ideals are of the highest are now entering these schools. No longer can it be said that no training-schools for nurses afford fitting educational opportunities for college graduates.

But I am already discussing the most important test by which our question is to be decided. For, after all, the real difference between a trade and a

\* An address given at the graduation exercises of the Long Island Hospital Training School, Boston, June 12th, 1902.

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