

## The American Nursing World.

### THE BILL FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN NEW YORK.

The last meeting of the New York State Nurses' Association, held at the Isabella Hart Memorial Home for Nurses at the City Hospital, Rochester, was of exceptional interest. In the absence of Miss Merritt, the President, Miss Julia Bailey, Vice-President, presided, and at once presented Miss Susan B. Anthony, the veteran leader in the "woman movement," who gave a characteristically strong address, and was accorded a rising vote of thanks at its close.

When the Association convened for the afternoon session, the Chairman presented Dr. William S. Ely, of the State Medical Board, and the Rev. Thomas Hendrick, a member of the State Board of Regents.

Dr. Ely said that it was in that very room two or three years earlier, that he had urged upon the nurses the necessity for legislation such as they now desire. He spoke from the physician's standpoint, and told how his profession had laboured under the same difficulties years ago which now confront the trained nurse.

It took ten or twelve years of legislative work for the graduated registered physicians to protect themselves and the profession, as well as the public, against quackery. He strongly favoured the position taken by the nurses, and thought the medical profession as a body would lend them every assistance.

Father Hendrick spoke from the standpoint of the Regents and the public, impressing upon those present that the Board of Regents does not prepare the examinations, but that this is done by reputable physicians. The Board does not make the laws, but it simply carries them out.

The most important feature of the whole day's proceedings was next taken up, namely, the Bill to be presented to the Legislature, as read before the meeting in the morning. The Bill was read by Miss Damer, and then taken up section by section and acted upon. The Bill in full was as follows:—

1. Any resident of New York State, being over the age of twenty-three years, and of good moral character, holding a diploma from a legally incorporated training-school for nurses connected with a general hospital, or a hospital for the insane, giving a satisfactory course of at least two years and registered by the Regents as maintaining in other respects proper standards, and who shall have received from the Regents of the University a certificate of his or her qualifications to practise as a trained nurse, as hereinafter provided, shall be styled and known as a trained nurse, and no other person shall assume such title, or use the abbreviation T. N., or any other words, letters, or figures to indicate that the person using the same is such a trained nurse.

2. The Regents of the University may appoint a board of three examiners, which shall be selected from those nominated by the New York State Association of Nurses, and with the advice of this board of

examiners make rules for the examination of nurses applying for certificates under this Act.

The Regents shall charge for examination and certificate such fee as may be necessary to meet the actual expenses of such examination, and they shall report annually their receipts and expenses under the provisions of this Act to the State Comptroller, and pay the balance of receipts over expenditures to the State Treasurer.

The Regents may revoke any such certificate for sufficient cause, after written notice to the holder thereof and hearing thereon.

3. On unanimous recommendation of the board of examiners the Regents may, in their discretion, waive the examination of any persons mentioned in section 1 above, or holding a diploma from any legally incorporated training-school registered by the Regents as maintaining proper standards, who shall have been graduated before the passage of this Act, and who shall apply in writing for such certificate within two years after the passage of this Act.

4. Any violation of this Act shall be a misdemeanour.

The main discussion was on the name, as it was necessary that in order to present such a Bill to the Legislature, the Association should agree upon some term by which all graduate registered nurses should be known. Miss Allerton strongly favoured the term "trained nurse."

Miss Nye, from Buffalo, argued that all qualifying adjectives such as "trained," "registered," "guaranteed," &c., were superfluous. She should simply have the term "nurse," which covered the whole ground.

Miss Sophia Palmer was next heard, and it was her opinion that the term "registered nurse" was all-comprehensive. She could not agree with Miss Allerton that the public was trained to a proper use of the application of "trained nurse," since the public does not discriminate between the trained nurse who is trained and the untrained trained nurse. But the whole thing is included in the word "registered," she said. It means that a nurse has been properly trained and graduated from a recognised training-school, and approved by the Regents, or she would not be "registered"; therefore that word gave the whole thing in a nutshell.

No woman is debarred from nursing because she is not a graduated registered nurse, nor did they wish to wage any war against such women. The only point was that the public should understand the difference between the two classes, the woman who had spent years in preparation and had passed the examinations, &c., of the registered nurse, and the woman who was nursing without any or with little training.

The motion was then made that the title be "registered nurse," and this was carried with great enthusiasm. The non-members, being asked to express their approval of the vote, did so unanimously. Miss Allerton, who had favoured the term "trained nurse," also voted for "registered nurse."

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