

Miss Louisa Stevenson,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE
REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

It is with great pleasure that we present to our readers a portrait of Miss Louisa Stevenson, President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the object of which is to obtain by Act of Parliament a Bill providing for the Legal Registration of Nurses. The need and importance of such a measure is summarised in a memorandum issued under the authority of the Society as follows:—

“It is of importance to Nurses because there is at present no recognised standard of education for a nurse, and no means of control of, or supervision over, the nursing profession. Consequently any woman inadequately trained, or without any professional training at all, may act and describe herself as a nurse, and by her want of skill, or personal unsuitability, may not only endanger the life of the patient, but can, and in many instances does, bring discredit upon the qualified members of the vocation.

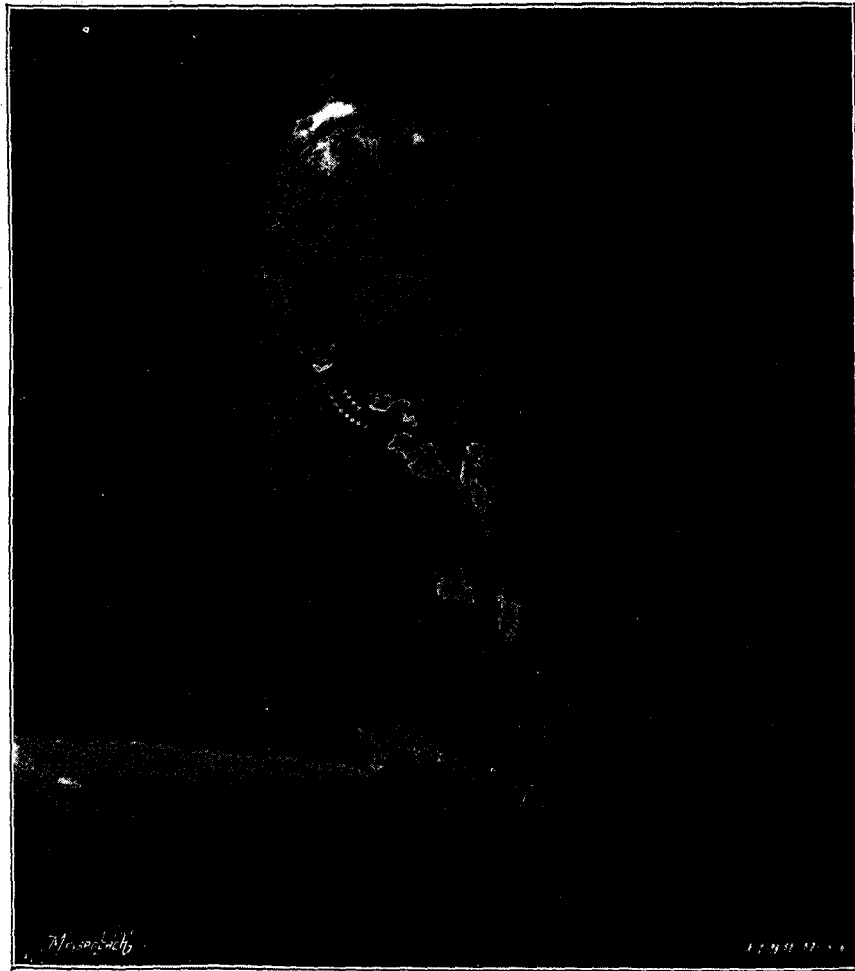
“The Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament is the only means by which a general standard of education and a definite system of professional control can be obtained.

“To Medical Practitioners, because there is no central authority in Nursing, analogous to the General Medical Council, which defines the professional curriculum for nurses, or which is empowered to enforce the reasonable control and discipline of trained nurses.

“To the Public, because it is of supreme importance to them in cases of illness that their nurses should be competent and trustworthy. At present, unfortunately, the private nursing world is more largely exploited by untrained and unsuitable persons than any other branch of nursing work, and the public pay the fees commanded by trained and experienced nurses, for the services of women who are neither one nor the other. When it is realised that between the visits of the medical attendant the nurse is left in sole

charge, and that the comfort and even the safety of a patient often depends upon her care and devotion, it will be seen that the stake which the public has in the question of State Registration cannot be exaggerated.”

The work to be performed through the medium of this Society is arduous indeed, and involves no less than the education of public opinion, so that the Parliamentary electors in Great Britain and Ireland shall demand the registration of trained nurses with



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a force which cannot be ignored. In this campaign trained nurses are most fortunate to have obtained so able a president for the new Society as Miss Louisa Stevenson. For a number of years Miss Stevenson has been associated with the organisation of women's work, and acted as hon. secretary of the National Association for Promoting the Medical Education of Women, which, under the leadership of Dr. Sophia Jex Blake, fought and won for women a qualifying education as medical practitioners, and their

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