

## The Progress of State Registration.

### A NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to the North Carolina State Nurses' Association on its proud position in having secured the passage of an Act providing for the Registration of Trained Nurses in the United States. A Bill with this object passed the General Assembly of North Carolina on March 2nd, 1903. We print below the full text of the Bill, and, while it is stated by its promoters to be a poor substitute for the original one, yet it is still a Bill which provides a working basis which promises reasonable hope of success. It should be carefully studied by all nurses in this country.

The Bill is as follows:—

#### "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

"SEC. 1. *The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:—*

"That any nurse who may present to the Clerk of the Superior Court of any county in the State, on or before December 31st, 1903, a diploma from a reputable training-school for nurses conducted in connection with a general hospital, public or private, in which medical, surgical, and obstetrical cases are treated, or in connection with one of the three State hospitals for the insane, or who shall exhibit a certificate of attendance upon such training-school for a period of not less than two years, or who shall present a certificate signed by three registered physicians stating that she or he has pursued as a business the vocation of a trained nurse for a period of not less than two years, and is in their judgment competent to practise the same, shall be entitled to registration without examination, and shall be registered by the Clerk of the court in the manner hereinafter provided.

"SEC. 2. That on and after January 1st, 1904, registration as a trained nurse shall be made by the Clerk of the court solely upon the presentation to him of a licence from the State Board of Examiners of nurses as created and provided by this Act.

"SEC. 3. That there shall be established a Board of Examiners of nurses composed of five members, two physicians and three registered nurses, to be elected by the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina and the North Carolina State Nurses' Association respectively, to be known by the title of 'The Board of Examiners of Trained Nurses of North Carolina.' Their term of office shall be three years.

"Three members, one of whom shall be a physician, shall constitute a quorum, and the majority of those present shall have a deciding vote. They shall each receive as compensation for his or her services when engaged in the work of the Board four dollars a day and actual travelling and hotel expenses, the same to be paid out of money received for licenses issued, and in no case to be charged upon the Treasury of the State.

"SEC. 4. That the said Board of Examiners is authorised to elect such officers, and frame such by-laws as may be necessary, and upon the occurrence of a vacancy is empowered to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term.

"SEC. 5. That after January 1st, 1904, it shall be the duty of the said Board of Examiners to meet not less frequently than once in every year, notice of which meeting shall be given in the public press. At such meeting it shall be their duty to examine all applicants for license as registered nurse, of good moral character, in the elements of anatomy and physiology, in medical, surgical, obstetrical, and practical nursing, invalid cookery, and household hygiene, and if on such examination they be found competent, to grant each applicant a license authorising her or him to register as hereinafter provided, and to use the title 'Registered Nurse,' signified by the letters 'R. N.' The said Board of Examiners may in its discretion issue license without examination to such applicants as shall furnish evidence of competency entirely satisfactory to them. Such applicant before receiving license shall pay a fee of five dols., which shall be used for defraying the expenses of the board.

"SEC. 6. That the Clerk of the Superior Court of any county, upon presentation to him of a license from the said Board of Examiners, shall register the date of registration with the name and residence of the holder thereof in a book to be kept in his office for this purpose and marked 'Register of Trained Nurses,' and shall issue to the applicant a certificate of such registration under the seal of the Superior Court of the county upon the form furnished him as hereinafter provided, for which registration he shall be paid 50 cents by the applicant.

"SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of the North Carolina State Nurses' Association to prescribe a proper form of the certificate required by this Act, and to furnish the same in sufficient quantity suitably bound in a book and labelled 'Register of Trained Nurses' to the Clerk of the court of each county in the State.

"SEC. 8. The said Board of Examiners shall have power after twenty days' notice of the charges preferred and the time and place of meeting, and after a full and fair hearing on the same, by a majority vote of the whole board, to revoke any license issued by them for gross incompetency, dishonesty, habitual intemperance, or any other act in the judgment of the Board derogatory to the morals or standing of the profession of nursing. Upon the revocation of a license or certificate the name of the holder thereof shall be stricken from the roll of registered nurses in the hands of the Secretary of the Board, and upon notification of such action by said Secretary by the Clerk of the court from his register.

"SEC. 9. That any person procuring license under this Act by false representation, or who shall refuse to surrender a license which has been revoked in the manner prescribed in Section 8, or who shall use the title 'Registered Nurse' or 'R. N.' without first having obtained license to do so, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and upon conviction shall be fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days.

"SEC. 10. That nothing in this Act shall in any manner whatever curtail or abridge the right and privilege of any person to pursue the vocation of a nurse, whether trained or untrained, registered or not registered.

"SEC. 11. That this Act shall be in force from and after its ratification."

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