

Progress of State Registration.

Bills have been passed for the Registration of Trained Nurses in the United States in the following order: First, North Carolina; New Jersey, second; Illinois, third; New York, fourth; and Virginia, fifth. Pennsylvania and Massachusetts are all alive to the necessity for legislation, and the nurses are busy organising with this end.

Speaking with an English Matron of the wonderful success which has attended the efforts of American nurses in connection with this movement, she was inclined to pooh-poo the idea that the nurses themselves had done anything to bring about legislation. It may interest this lady to read the following letter from Mrs. Hutchinson, the President of the Illinois State Association of Graduate Nurses, addressed to the *American Journal of Nursing*:—

"We have been for the past three months labouring assiduously for the passage of our Bill in the Legislature. We are now able to report that the Bill has passed the Senate and is up for third reading in the House.

"We understand the Governor is in favour of the Bill, and we therefore believe that the consummation of all our efforts will be success.

"The Bill met with no opposition in the Senate, and readily passed the three readings and was referred to the House. Here things began to be more exciting, and we found a strong opponent in the person of the president of a college for nurses where the hospital training was three months in a hospital, and where the whole prescribed course of training seemed most inadequate. A delegation, consisting of Miss McIsaac, Illinois Training-School; Miss Dawson, Chicago Homeopathic; Miss Fulmer, Visiting Nurses' Association, Chicago; Miss Ahrens, Champaign, Ill.; Miss Wheeler, Blessing Hospital, Quincy, Ill.; Miss McLennan, Vermilion County Hospital, Danville, Ill.; Mrs. Hutchinson, President of Illinois State Association, and Mrs. Tice, Corresponding Secretary of the Illinois State Association, went to Springfield and spent two days lobbying. We were received in a most cordial manner, and the representatives from both sides of the House grasped the situation and seemed to understand the necessity for such a Bill, and all whom we interviewed promised to vote for the Bill. Dr. G. W. Webster, President, and Dr. Egan, Secretary of the State Board of Health, were present, and in every way helped us. Dr. Webster most kindly arranged for a meeting on our first evening in Springfield with Speaker Miller, of the House, who promised to help us. A week after our return to Chicago we found the Bill had not moved along, so Misses Cleary and Sherlock, from Mercy Hospital, Chicago, went down and spent two days at Springfield trying to awaken more interest and have the Bill referred to a committee. The week after our return the Licensing Committee, to which the Bill had been referred, appointed a day when our Bill was to be for trial, and we were notified to have some of the profession there to speak for the Bill. Again Miss McIsaac, Miss Shancey, Miss Fulmer, Miss Stewart, and Mrs. E. B. Hutchinson went to Spring-

field. We spent the early morning in the House, and especially with the members of the committee, urging their presence and help when the critical moment came. We would like to mention the names of several men who worked nobly for this Bill, and we trust, if they ever should require the services of a nurse, that they may have a registered nurse, and that she may be worthy of her name. I cannot say enough of the women who have worked for this Bill to become a law. The benefits to be derived will not come to them, but the love of their profession and of humanity is a never-failing inspiration. They ask no better recompense than to see their profession more honoured.

"At this point we wish especially to make mention of the indefatigable efforts of the Sisters of Mercy. If we succeed we shall owe much to their loyal aid."

The Illinois Bill passed the Assembly on April 17th last, a happy result due *entirely to the work of the nurses themselves*. Let us emulate their fine example.

Legal Matters.

A SOUTH AFRICAN ENGAGEMENT.

In the Court of Appeal on Monday last the case of *Crosbey v. Drake* was heard by Lord Justices Stirling and Mathew, when Miss Jennie Crosbey, a nurse trained at Middlesex Hospital, applied for leave to appeal from an order by Mr. Justice Phillimore refusing leave to serve a writ in South Africa.

According to Mr. Cyril Dodd, K.C., the action was brought by Miss Crosbey for damages against the defendant, Captain Reginald Drake, of the 2nd North Stafford Regiment, for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff asserted that while in South Africa, where she was employed as a nurse in connection with the Army Nursing Service Reserve, the defendant on several occasions promised verbally to marry her, and subsequently ratified the promise in letters written after her return to England.

He promised to come to England to marry her, but did not do so, and also promised to marry her in South Africa on her return there, but did not fulfil his word. At the express wish of the defendant she resigned her position on the staff of the Nurses' Co-operation, 8, New Cavendish Street, W. In February last Captain Drake wrote to the plaintiff asking to be released from his engagement, as he was not in a position to marry, and was not free from debt. Both he and his father, who wrote pointing out that his son had no independent income, expressed the hope that Miss Crosbey would allow them to see that she was not a loser by any expenses she had been put to in regard to outfit.

Lord Justice Stirling, in giving judgment, upheld the decision of the Court below, on the ground that the order applied for by the plaintiff was for service out of the jurisdiction.

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