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Editorial.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

Saturday, November 28th, is an epoch-making day in the history of the Registration movement in this country, for it is the day when the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses meet to discuss the clauses of the Bill providing for their legal registration drafted since the Annual Meeting for their consideration by their Executive Committee. In the form eventually endorsed by the Society the Bill will then for the first time see the light of day, inasmuch as it will emerge from the fostering care of its supporters, and be subjected to the consideration of training-school authorities and others concerned in nursing education, as well as to that of societies of nurses.

It follows that the occasion is a momentous one, and we hope that, difficult as it is for nurses to attend meetings, the members of the State Registration Society will make a special effort to be present on November 28th, at 20, Hanover Square. In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, and, at this initial stage, too much pains cannot be taken to render the Bill under consideration a wise, comprehensive, and statesmanlike measure, so that it may commend itself to its friends, and forestall the objections of its opponents.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

A Bill having been provisionally adopted, the obligations of the members of the Society associated together to promote its passage do not end, rather they begin in earnest, for surely it will be the duty of every member to further the progress of the Bill by every means in her power; to direct the attention of other nurses, of members of the public, and, if possible, of Members of Parliament, to the need for the passage of such a Bill, and to work diligently for its enactment. For, it must be remembered that in these days no Bill has a chance of passing in the House which is not backed by public opinion, and on behalf of which pressure

has not been brought to bear upon Members by their constituents.

AN ENCOURAGING PROSPECT.

In undertaking this work nurses have much to encourage them, for, while at the outset they are confronted by the difficulty that, being women and voteless, they have no direct influence with Members of Parliament, yet signs are not wanting that the steady work of the last fifteen years has told, and that the community is awaking to the dangers which it daily incurs from the present lack of any standard of professional education for trained nurses.

Again, the recent correspondence in the *British Medical Journal* has proved conclusively that, while medical men of standing are ready to come forward and publicly support nurses in their demand for Registration, not one has offered any opposition to the movement. The presumption, therefore, is that whenever the Nurses' Registration Bill is introduced into the House it will receive the support of the profession of medicine.

A PULL ALL TOGETHER.

Further, the names of the Vice-Presidents of the Society include those of some women who are known and esteemed far and wide for their public work in connection with movements for the benefit of the community. Thus, the Society can claim as supporters Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, LL.D., Miss Flora Stevenson, LL.D., Lady McLaren, the Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, the Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. H. J. Tennant, Mrs. Homan, M.L.S.B., and many others whose names are household words. With such friends, what matter if we must expect some opposition when it is introduced into the House; the resulting discussion will be healthy and stimulating, nor must we forget the experience of our colleagues in New York State, one of whom reported:—"Our enemies, poor things, turned out to be much less formidable than we had expected. . . . there is no greater tactical mistake than timidity."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)