

Saturday last, reporting on a copy of a Draft Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which had been forwarded by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, with a request that they might be furnished with any suggestions which the Board might have to make in regard to it, the Hospitals Committee stated that the Bill would provide for the establishment of a General Nursing Council which would regulate the qualifications of trained nurses and provide for their registration. They thought that, having regard to the large number of the nursing staff employed by the Board, steps should be taken for the representation of the Managers on the Council referred to, in the event of the Bill becoming law. It was resolved to inform the Society accordingly.

During the discussion the Hon. Maude Stanley expressed her opposition to the Bill, and stated that if it were passed it would be a great disaster to the nursing profession.

We are of opinion that Miss Stanley would do well, before again taking an active part in opposing the just demands of trained nurses for legal status, to consult the Matrons and Sisters in the fever hospitals under the direction of the Metropolitan Asylum Board. She would then learn that eight out of the twelve Matrons of these institutions are members of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, as are dozens of the Sisters and nurses, and that they have taken an active part in helping to draft the Bill sent to and considered by the Board.

Surely these experienced trained women know what would be good for their profession and the sick. We hope the Metropolitan Asylums Board will acquaint themselves with the opinions of those best qualified to form one on this question, and give their valuable nursing officers every encouragement in their conscientious attempt to evolve order out of the present chaotic and most unsatisfactory condition of nursing education and nursing work.

The Central Hospital Council for London, composed of the following thirty-six gentlemen, are going to oppose the Bill for our Registration by the State. If, however, they are as divided on the question as the three nominees of St. Bartholomew's Hospital they cannot claim to be unanimous, as Dr. Norman Moore is the only one out of the three opposed to the principle of Registration.

We publish these names because we have no doubt many of these gentlemen know absolutely nothing of the rights of the question, and have been pledged to opposition by the few active anti-Registrationists on the Council, and the other side of the question might well be placed before them by those interested—the nurses themselves. In any case we nurses cannot allow for a moment

that either lay hospital governors and secretaries, or even medical men, can judge better than we can ourselves what is right and just concerning our own professional affairs, and, with all due deference to these gentlemen, they sometimes see things with the employer's eye, whilst we do so from the only reliable point of view—that of the employed.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)