

sion, and will lead to a better sub-division of labour and to greater economy of nursing effort.

The State Register would in no way "lower the status of the best nurses," for, although every nurse on the Register would have reached a certain minimum standard of efficiency, those who undertook further courses of study, or obtained experience in different departments of nursing, would have these facts duly notified in the Register, and this would result in the creation of a higher order of nurses, to whom higher fees might be paid, and by whom the prizes of the profession would naturally tend to be filled.

The opposition to Registration comes from certain Hospital Committees—the employers of nurses—and from some Matrons in the service of these Committees, who have ranged themselves on the side of their employers. It is unnecessary to point out that the interests of employers and employed are not always identical, and both need safeguarding. There is also considerable prejudice in the minds of Hospital Committees against any proposals which would establish a Central Board, and thus diminish the independence of their nurse-training schools.

At present the training schools have absolute power to regulate the hours of work and the conditions of labour of their employees. In some hospitals the position of the probationer is inferior to that of the domestic servant, who at any rate is entitled to a month's notice. Neither have women who enter the training-schools any guarantee at present that they will receive a thorough training in return for the three years' service to which in most cases they bind themselves on the understanding that they will receive an efficient training.

These training schools are at the present time a law to themselves. There is no minimum standard to which they must conform before they are entitled to rank as training-schools, and, while some give due consideration to the interests of their pupils, others—as is only natural—consider their own convenience first.

As an efficient nursing service is a valuable "national asset," it is imperative that nurse training schools should give proof of their qualifications before their recognition as educational authorities. This is imperative in the interests of the nurses and of the public.

LOUISA STEVENSON, President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Member of the Board of Management of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, President International Council of Nurses, Member of Distinguished Order of the Greek Red Cross.

ISLA STEWART, Matron and Superintendent of Nursing, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, President Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, President League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

MARGARET HUXLEY, President Irish Nurses Association.

MILDRED HEATHER-BIGG, Matron Charing Cross Hospital.

ELEANOR C. BARTON, Matron Chelsea Infirmary, President Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League.

G. A. ROGERS, Matron the Infirmary, Leicester, President League of Leicester Infirmary Nurses.

M. MOLLETT, Matron Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, President Royal South Hants Nurses' League.

MARGARET BREAY, Vice-President League of St. John's House Nurses, Hon. Secretary Matrons' Council.

HELEN MUNRO FERGUSON, Vice-President Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

FANNY LUMSDEN (of Belhelvie), Vice-President.

F. M. ROBERTS-AUSTIN, Chairman Womersley Parish Council, P.L.G., Vice-President.

FLORA C. STEVENSON, LL.D., Chairman of the Edinburgh School Board, Vice-President.

RUTH HOMAN, Member of the London School Board, Vice-President.

MAY TENNANT, formerly H.M. Superintending Inspector of Factories, Vice-President.

CLARA BELASYSE MYERS, President Millom Nursing Association, Vice-President.

MADELAINE GREENWOOD, late Hon. Secretary Society of Women Journalists, Vice-President.

E. S. HALDANE, Vice-President.

A. M. MACDONNELL, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent Richmond Hospital, Dublin, Member Irish Nurses' Association, Vice-President.

J. KILDARE-TREACY, Lady Superintendent City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Member Irish Nurses' Association, Vice-President.

S. E. HAMPSON, Member Irish Nurses' Association, Vice-President.

M. F. BOSTOCK, Lady Superintendent Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, Vice-President.

EUPHEMIA ROSS, Matron Western Hospital, Fulham, Delegate Matrons' Council on Executive Committee.

ROSAMUND GRACE HAYWARD, Delegate League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses on Executive Committee.

LAURA P. M. BAKER, Delegate League of St. John's House Nurses on Executive Committee.

ELEANOR RICHARDSON, Matron Stockport Infirmary, Hon. Sec. Cheshire.

FREDERICA M. L. GROVES, Hon. Secretary Gloucestershire.

HENRIETTA C. POOLE, Matron East Lancashire Infirmary, Blackburn, Local Hon. Sec.

K. MACINTYRE, Matron Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, Local Hon. Sec.

MARGARET F. MULVANY, Matron Bolton Infirmary, Local Hon. Sec.

B. L. GREENLAW, Matron Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, Hon. Sec., Monmouthshire.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)