

several of the Hon. Officers and medical and nurse members are affixed to it. Amongst them are Miss Thorold, Vice-Chairman; Lord Lister, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Mr. E. A. Fardon, Vice-Presidents; Sir G. Anderson Critchett, Dr. William Duncan, Dr. Herbert Allingham, Miss Medill (St. Mary's), Miss Hole (Nat. Orthopædic), and Miss Vernet (National Hosp.), members of the General Council and Executive Committee; Miss F. Smedley (St. George's), Miss E. Keith (Hosp. for Paralysis and Epilepsy), Miss G. Payne and Miss Ada Reed (Children's Hosp., Gt. Ormond St.), and Miss F. E. Court (Victoria Home, Margate).

Now, of course, these ladies and gentlemen have a perfect right to their own opinions on this question, but they appear to forget (1) that the Royal British Nurses' Association was founded to effect State Registration of Trained Nurses; (2) that the Governing Body of the Association, on which the majority of them have seats, has sanctioned, drafted, and introduced into Parliament "A Bill to provide for the better Training and Registration of Nurses"; and (3) that if they find they are conscientiously unable to support the principles for which the Association was founded, and which it is now furthering, their honourable course will be to resign, and not to associate themselves actively with persons pledged to oppose the Association's work whilst still members of the R.B.N.A. In the maintenance of their own self-respect it is to be hoped that this course will be taken, as great discredit is brought upon nurses and women generally by veering round with every current of opinion. The time has come when societies of nurses must no longer overlook vacillating irresponsibility upon the part of their members. Men would not tolerate such disloyalty for a moment. Why should we? If the resignations of these ladies and gentlemen who are working actively against Registration have not yet been received, we hope the Committee will have the courage to call for them. The present condition of affairs is puerile and mischievous.

Mrs. Farquharson of Haughton, President of the Scottish Association for the Promotion of Women's Public Work, writing to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick recently, said:—

"I cannot tell you how interested I am in your Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, for I know of no reform that is of greater urgency, both for protection to the public, as well as nurses, from the fraud that injures both equally. I do trust public opinion may be roused to realise the danger, and to bravely support the Bill now before Parliament. I give you my experience of two nurses from reliable Homes, which demonstrates what happens where reasonable care has been taken to ascertain the training a nurse has had, leaving the greater danger arising where a nurse is merely on her own hook to be easily understood. I had reason to suspect nurse No. 1 was sleeping at night instead of

attending to the patient—a near relative. She was out of the sick-room twelve hours in the day, but was constantly seen flirting in the village instead of resting. I asked the medical man in attendance to explain how serious the patient's case was, and in my presence he did so, remarking that if the fire was allowed to go out it would cost the patient's life. She promised faithfully to attend, adding that 'she never closed her eyes when on duty.' Being very anxious I returned to the sick-room about 11 p.m., when I found the nurse so sound asleep that she did not hear me make up the fire—which was all but out—or wake till I locked her outside, when she asked the train I was sending her away by in the morning! Nurse No. 2 was sent me for a very serious heart case. The doctor's instructions were to watch very carefully, as cyanosis and syncope had threatened frequently. She thought he was mistaking the case, and refused to leave her fancy work, though told by the maid in attendance that the patient was fainting. The maid had the presence of mind to summon the physician, who dismissed her at once as not being fit for a nurse's post. As she was an orphan I asked the Superintendent that her offence might be pardoned with an admonition, which was done, and the nurse sent to another patient under another doctor the same day. She was, however, again dismissed, by him in a few hours. On strict investigation being made it was found that the woman was really an impostor, fraudulently posing as a nurse with hardly any training."

THE ANTI-REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN.

An article by Miss Eva C. E. Lückes, Matron of the London Hospital, strongly adverse to the State Registration of Nurses and Professional Organisation of Trained Nurses, appears in the current issue of the *Nineteenth Century and After*. We propose to allude to it in an early issue. Opposition to State Registration of Trained Nurses has always emanated from the London Hospital.

THE ONTARIO GRADUATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

Miss Snively, Lady Superintendent of the General Hospital, Toronto, writes:—

"A meeting was held on April 2nd at Toronto, in the interests of Legislation for Nurses, which was a most representative affair. It was very encouraging, and we trust ere long to see a strong association of Canadian nurses in this Province. We thought best to organise on similar lines to those in the States, consequently we have named this society 'The Ontario Graduate Nurses' Association.' Doubtless other Provinces will follow, when ultimately we may hope for a National Association. I congratulate you on the good work being done in England in this matter. I am sure English nurses will have reason to thank those who are helping them to organise on national lines now and in the future. How glad I should be of an opportunity of seeing you all again at Berlin. I fear now I cannot be present, but trust sincerely the Congress may be most helpful in every way."

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