

notably Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and the District of Columbia, have during the past year formed State Associations of Nurses to procure legislation.

It is a matter for real congratulation that a Bill providing for the Registration of Nurses in the State of Maryland has passed both Houses without amendment, and received the signature of the Executive.

American graduate nurses are to be congratulated that every Superintendent of Nurses of note in the United States is in favour of State Registration, and that in their efforts to establish adequate standards they have had the most generous support from the governors of hospitals and members of the medical and legal professions, a laudable example which might be emulated in this country.

GERMANY.—It is a curious coincidence that, in the same month that a Bill was presented in the House of Commons in this country advocating the State Registration of Trained Nurses, a petition was presented to the Government in Germany which has almost the same proposals to make with regard to the raising and regularising of the position of professional nurses. The petition has been signed by 170 important societies.

The German nurses ask:—1. That the possibility be given to every nurse to pass an examination after the three years' training prescribed by Government; 2. To receive a certificate and the right to wear a badge which is protected by Government, which the Supervisory Board will have the power to deprive them of should occasion arise.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, it is well to recapitulate the objects for which this Society stands.

Primarily it is to promote the welfare and uphold the honour of the nursing profession for the benefit of the public whom it serves. The first step in this direction is to establish through legislation a minimum qualification for trained nurses.

With this object in view our Bill has been prepared and presented to the Legislature with the hope of establishing such standards as will enable a nurse registered in the United Kingdom to command universal recognition and respect.

The passage of this Bill will not affect any persons nursing the sick who do not assume to be Registered Nurses. It will, however, make it impossible for such persons to stand, as they do at present, on exactly the same basis as the nurse who has given three years of hard work and study to qualify herself for the practice of her profession.

Such legislation will be beneficial to the public in furnishing it with a means to discriminate between efficiency and incompetence; in supplying a guarantee that those who are known as Registered Nurses have furnished satisfactory evidences to the State of their fitness and ability to give efficient care to the sick. The passage of the Bill must inevitably result in improvement in the education and training of nurses.

Those nurses who are anxious to uphold the honour and dignity of their profession, and to promote its usefulness in order that it may best minister to the needs of the community, should lose no time in becoming members of this Society, and no opportunity of interesting the public in what is really a measure of national importance. Most valuable help and support have already been accorded to the movement by lay and medical friends, and no effort should be spared which can serve to make clear that for the safety of the people it is of paramount importance that a trained nurse should be able to show that she possesses the necessary personal qualities, knowledge, and skill to qualify her for the noble work which it is her privilege to perform.

The best thanks of the Society are due to those ladies and gentlemen who have come forward and made it possible, through their influence and ability, for the Society to have achieved so great a measure of success during the past year.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Receipts and Payments from May 1st, 1903, to April 30th, 1904.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance—										
At Bank ... ..	34	9	11				By Postages ... ..	22	19	10
In Treasurer's hands	1	3	6				„ Printing and Stationery ... ..	35	13	9
				35	13	5	„ Public Meetings and Office Expenses ... ..	17	10	5
„ Subscriptions ... ..				60	0	6	„ Clerical Assistance ... ..	14	4	6
„ Donations ... ..				28	6	0	„ Parliamentary Draughtsman ... ..	5	5	0
„ Sale of Literature ... ..				17	6		„ Balance at Bank ... £20 1 5			
							In Treasurer's hands	9	2	6
								29	3	11
				£124	17	5	Audited and found correct,	£124	17	5

110, Cannon Street, E.C.,  
12th May, 1904.

H. RENDALL GOTHARD,  
Chartered Accountant

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)