

"Whereas, There is no method, except in South Africa, of enabling the public to discriminate easily between trained nurses and ignorant persons who assume that title; and,

"Whereas, This is a fruitful source of injury to the sick and of discredit to the nursing profession, it is the opinion of this International Congress of Nurses, in general meeting assembled, that it is the duty of the nursing profession of every country to work for suitable legislative enactment regulating the education of nurses and protecting the interests of the public, by securing State examinations and public registration with the proper penalties for enforcing the same."

1901. Nurses' Registration Bill passed in New Zealand.
1901. Foundation of Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, Victoria, Australia. First object, "To establish a system of Registration for Trained Nurses."
1902. Foundation in Great Britain of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, "To obtain an Act of Parliament providing for the legal Registration of Trained Nurses."
1903. Acts providing for the Registration of Trained Nurses passed in North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia, United States of America. Bills have also been drafted in other States.

May 8th.—The drafting of a Registration Bill for Great Britain and Ireland sanctioned by the general meeting of members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

November 28th.—Draft Bill submitted to special meeting of members and authorised.

December 23rd.—"Brief Synopsis" of a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, drafted by the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, published in the official organ of the Association; the first intimation to the members that a Bill was being drawn on their behalf, but proving that the Hon. Officers of the Association at last realise the widespread demand amongst trained nurses for this reform.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses therefore appeals to all those interested in the efficient care of the sick to give earnest consideration to the best method of legislation to effect this end.

A Special General Meeting of the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be held at the Rooms of the Medical Society of London on Saturday, January 23rd, at 3 p.m., to receive a report in reference to the Draft Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, when it is hoped members will make an effort to be present.

Legal Matters.

A NURSE'S GOOD NAME.

A nurse's good name is one of her chief assets. If she loses this, her capacity for maintaining herself by her professional earnings is seriously impaired, and it is therefore right that she should have an opportunity of defending it, when it is attacked, in a court of law.

It will be remembered by our readers that we recorded last month the indecisive result of an action for libel brought by a private nurse, Miss Mildred Davies—who was a member of a nursing institution in Handsworth, near Birmingham—against a patient, Mrs. Rosannah Anderson Thompson. The jury disagreed on the points at issue, and the case has now been re-heard by his Honour Judge Whitehorse and a jury in the Birmingham County Court.

THE CASE FOR THE PLAINTIFF.

The case for the plaintiff was that she had a high reputation in her profession until she unfortunately entered the service of Mr. and Mrs. Thompson. Mrs. Thompson (the defendant) resided with her husband at Handsworth. On the advice of her medical attendant the nurse was engaged on June 13th. On June 23rd she accompanied the patient to Amberley. Mr. Thompson stayed at Handsworth, it being decided that he should not accompany his wife. The term of employment came to an end, and the plaintiff should have left, but stayed on at the request of the defendant. Mr. Thompson had written refusing to pay any more fees, but the defendant said these would be all right. Plaintiff was recalled by Miss Lewis, the Superintendent of the institution, to Handsworth, and parted from the defendant on July 23rd, apparently on the best of terms.

Subsequently, on application being made to the defendant for payment of £2 2s. due to Miss Davies the former wrote a letter to the Superintendent (Miss Lewis) which induced her to tell the nurse that she must clear her character before returning to the Home. This was the libel complained of.

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE.

For the defence, it was contended that the letter was privileged, perfectly true, and without malice, and that the plaintiff asked leave to stay some days beyond her time, as she was going to nurse a sister, and did not want to return to the Home. That the plaintiff had "gossiped" about her patient "all over the place." That, belonging to a Temperance Home, of which the employees were not allowed to take stimulants except under medical orders, the plaintiff had ordered stout for herself, of which the defendant knew nothing until she had to pay for it.

After the counsel had addressed the jury, the Judge summed up. He held that the letter was

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