

The Progress of State Registration.

The following letter of acknowledgment of the Resolution sent to the President of the Maryland State Association of Nurses by the Annual Meeting of the State Registration Society in this country will be read with interest by the members:—

The Maryland State Association
of Graduate Nurses,
Baltimore, June 20th, 1904.

DEAR MRS. FENWICK,—On behalf of the Maryland State Association of Nurses it is my pleasant duty to acknowledge with sincere thanks the good wishes contained in the resolution which you have conveyed to me of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in England. To our thanks for your encouraging words we beg to add our hope that we may very soon have the pleasure of sending you our congratulations upon the efforts which are now being made to obtain State Registration for Nurses in England.—Believe me, Yours faithfully,

ADELAIDE NUTTING,
President.

To Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
Hon. Sec. Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, London, England.

The *Medical Magazine* for June opens with a *résumé* of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and concludes with the following pregnant remarks:—

"Such is the gist of the proposed measure, which in its essentials regulates the profession of nursing pretty much in the same way as medical practice and the practice of midwives is regulated and protected.

"Lately a manifesto was issued against this scheme by the Central Hospital Council, amongst its signatories being several members of the medical profession of high standing and some lay hospital officials. We consider, however, that the various reasons advanced in this manifesto were of a flimsy character, and, indeed, showed a degree of ignorance on the part of those who signed it which it is to be hoped time will rectify. A Select Committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to examine the evidence and facts upon which the necessity for Registration is based, and, when this evidence has been submitted, we venture to think that very few members of the medical profession will seriously question the urgency of a Bill such as is here drafted. We drew attention lately (*Medical Magazine*, February, 1904) to various aspects of Registration which had been very ably put forward in the *Nineteenth Century* by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson. We cannot at present add much to what she has there said, but may point out that a large number of 'nurses' exploit the public at the present time, and that there are hundreds of homes injured by wicked and designing women whose antecedents cannot be traced. Many of these women have had a training as nurses at one time or other, and are

able to produce certificates, &c., but of their intermediate career nothing is known. It is urged by the anti-Registrationists that the personal qualities of a nurse are most important, and that Registration is nugatory so far as this is concerned. Now we should say, on the other hand, that the fact of a woman being on the register would act as an incentive to make her maintain her position in accordance with her status. At present a nurse has no standard to live up to, apart from her own conscience and the law of the land, and experience shows that for all women this is not sufficient. Women with high personal qualities, but who are unregistered, may be engaged as nurses with perfect freedom by those who desire them, but such a weak and sentimental objection cannot be permitted to stand in the way of the public safety and the welfare of the nursing profession itself."

A History of Nursing.

We hear that Dr. Worcester, of Waltham, U.S.A., who is now travelling in Europe making an exhaustive inquiry into nursing in the various countries, intends writing a History of Nursing. Miss Nutting, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, has for some time past contemplated compiling such a history. We hope both works will be forthcoming. It would be useful to compare the information on this important subject, as set forth by a medical man and a trained nurse.

A Welcome Visitor.

Miss L. L. Dock is to visit London in two weeks time, and we shall all be delighted to see her; but as she enjoys "just a quiet little cup of afternoon tea" rather than more official functions, we must pay our respects to her in this informal manner.

Sanatoria for the Consumptive Poor.

Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, Chairman of the Committee, is appealing for support for the East Anglian Sanatorium at Nayland, in Suffolk, which aims at offering simple but thoroughly efficient accommodation within their means to the poor of both sexes who require the open-air treatment now recognised as so essential in dealing with cases of phthisis. The Sanatorium has been in existence for several years, and is of the usual kind for patients who can pay the ordinary fees, but accommodation of a much simpler character has been put up for working women, the building for sixteen patients costing £1,500. This modest sum has nearly been raised, but Mrs. Fawcett appeals for contributions to complete it. She will be glad to reply to inquiries addressed to her at 2, Gower Street, W.C., and to furnish particulars of the scheme to any intending benefactor. We wish it every success. Simplicity, not luxury, is the foundation of efficiency.

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