

Progress of State Registration.

Trained nurses who know the true inwardness of the opposition to State Registration will not be surprised to learn that Sir Henry C. Burdett has been appointed a member of the Central Hospital Council for London, the body which, in January of the present year, passed a resolution "That this Council is opposed to any State Registration of Nurses, and that steps be taken on behalf of the Council to oppose any Bill in Parliament having such Registration for its object." The Council, as our readers are aware, has since been actively engaged in giving effect to this resolution, and in organising opposition to the Nurses' Bill, has consistently and contemptuously ignored the opinion of the nurses themselves.

Sir Henry Burdett, after attempting to inaugurate a system of registration for trained nurses to which they would not submit, has for the last seventeen years been a bitter opponent of the Registration movement, which no doubt accounts for his joining the Central Hospital Council since the inauguration of its anti-Registration campaign. He represents the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, which, as it only receives male patients, can never rank as a school which gives a complete training.

Mr. William Horrocks, F.R.C.S., writing in the *British Medical Journal*, says that in the discussion on the Registration of Nurses one point has escaped notice. "When the wife of a mechanic or working man is ill, the service of a 'help' is usually called in, who nurses the patient to the best of her ability, and carries on the work of the house. The hospital-trained nurse would not undertake these duties, nor could the working man afford to pay for her services. The district nurse could not give sufficient time to such cases."

We think that the best method of caring for the poor in their own homes is by means of the nurses of the Q.V.J.I., and we hope that in time one of these will be available for every parish in the kingdom. Boards of guardians might well give substantial help in the support of such a nurse, who would be available to nurse their sick poor. The working man could still employ the "help," who could carry on the work of the house and care for the patient between the visits of the nurse.

In the current issue of *Asylum News* the question of State Registration of Nurses is discussed editorially. In recommending all asylum workers who are eligible to lose no time in entering for the examination of the Medico-Psychological Association, the editor says:—"We would strongly recommend all asylum workers who are qualified as regards training and attendance on lectures to lose no time in entering for examination, as it is quite possible, in view of the State Registration of Nurses, that the qualifying period may before long be increased to three years."

The American Nursing World.

THE NURSE AND THE PUBLIC.

At the graduating exercises of King's County Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y., held June 17th, Dr. A. T. Bristow addressed his remarks to the audience instead of to the nurses, saying in part:—

"It has fallen to my lot now for the fifth time to address a graduating class of nurses, and I have been led to ponder whether it is always the fair thing to assume that the nurses need all the preaching and the public none at all. Duties are always reciprocal, and if the graduate of the training-school owes certain obligations to the people, on the other hand, the people owe a certain duty to the nurses they employ. Audiences like this have become accustomed to listen to the good advice which is given to the class and virtuously applaud, with the reflection as they depart that this particular class has certainly heard the truth for once. This audience, however, is to have no such privilege. The lay sermon, with apologies to the clergy, is directed at the audience, and it is, on this occasion at least, for the nurses to listen to some words on their behalf addressed to the public.

"The learned professions have every reason to be grateful to the public. You dutifully take our nauseous doses, submit yourselves to surgical interference trustingly, and pay our bills—almost always. You listen to the sermons of the clergy and believe all they tell you also—almost always. But you owe something more than money to these sisters of ours who stand midway between the doctors and the clergy, faithful handmaidens of both professions. You have duties to them which are not always appreciated or fulfilled.

"For your better understanding let me tell you how an honest and good woman prepares herself for the service which she offers you and yours. When she enters the training-school of the hospital it is necessary for her to make an absolute surrender of her will and her liberty to her work and those who supervise and direct it. She rises by rule, she works twelve hours a day by rule, she studies by rule, she sleeps by rule. If she goes out for recreation, she registers the time of her departure and return in a book kept for the purpose. She is not her own. She is bought with a price, and that price is her education.

"Quite different is the experience of the young medical student. He may or may not attend lectures during his four years of study. If at the end of the term he can pass his examinations, and finally that of the State, he is at all times free to come and go. He is his own master.

"There is this difference, however, between the graduate in medicine and the graduates of to-night. The young doctor has most of his experience to gain when he graduates, but the nurse comes to you from this platform just as competent to take charge of a

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