

Registration will ensure the keeping of records, showing whether a nurse is what she claims to be as to graduation data and as to fitness, and whether she is living up to the standards from year to year. It will also bring about more uniformity. This information will be at the disposal of the public all the time.

III. WHAT IT WILL DO FOR THE PROFESSION.

We, as physicians, realise that such avocations as have to do with the life and death of an individual, or even his daily welfare, should have certain restrictions placed upon them by the State. This we find in the case of physicians, pharmacists, and attorneys. For the physician, registration will mean the elimination of illegal competition by those who have put neither time nor money into an education to qualify themselves for their responsible positions in life. It will ensure to him a supply of fairly uniform nurses, upon whom he can rely to carry out his instructions. It will mean that he will not have to answer for poor results caused by mismanagement on the part of incompetent nurses. He will know that his patient is getting the best nursing available, and, if the quality is poor, he has an organised body to which he can appeal for betterment. The New York law, for instance, insists that schools registered with the Regents must maintain proper standards.

The leading physicians of the four States now having registration—viz., Virginia, North Carolina, New York, and New Jersey—have been warm workers in its behalf. This is as it should be. While the professions of nursing and medicine have their distinct spheres, yet they are intimately connected, and since nursing is looked upon more and more as a necessity, it behoves the physician to champion any cause looking to the betterment of the nursing body. In dividing the subject into three sections, I realise that arguments appearing in one section might be employed with advantage in another, perhaps. But the division is purely arbitrary, and the three are so nearly related that the good of one is the good of all. The subject is just being agitated in comparatively recent times, and so I could not get all the literature I desired. But I trust that I have presented enough arguments to show why we as a profession should encourage State Registration. So, in answer to my subject, I shall say, "Yes."

A Nursing Conference in India.

We are glad to hear from a correspondent that it is proposed to hold a Nursing Conference in India. Such conferences are of the greatest value, especially abroad, and in a country such as India, where, owing to its extent and to the comparatively small number of nurses at work, they are often very isolated.

A Presentation.

On Saturday evening a very interesting function took place in the Nurses' Library at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, when the room was crammed with past and present nurses, gathered together to give a parting gift to Miss Henderson—Sister Frances—who for nearly twenty years has held the position of Home Sister, and has in that long term of service seen numberless probationers pass through the school.

Miss Musson, the Assistant Matron, spoke of the regret with which those present learned of the resignation of Miss Henderson, and expressed in suitable language all good wishes for a happy, restful future after her many years of work. To commemorate the occasion she offered to Miss Henderson a pretty bag containing fifty guineas, expressing the hope that it might be spent in adding to the beauty and comfort of her future home. A copy of Dr. Norman Moore's "History of St. Bartholomew's Hospital," still in the press, and a photograph of the medical staff are to be presented in due time. The names of the 350 members of the nursing staff who had subscribed towards the testimonial were inscribed in a sweet Russia leather book, to remind the recipient of her many friends.

Miss Henderson replied with some emotion, and expressed her pleasure and gratitude for this evidence of friendship and affection. She said upon leaving the hospital she would winter in Rome, and later hoped to make her home in London, when she would gladly welcome there all those who continue to remember her.

Coffee, cake, and chat concluded a very sympathetic gathering.

The Irish Nurses' Coronation Fund.

A meeting of King Edward the VII's Coronation National Fund for Nurses was recently held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin. The Right Hon. the Earl of Meath, President of the Council of Management, was in the chair, and there were present Sir Andrew Reed, K.C.B.; Sir Wm. Thomson, C.B., M.D.; Mr. Andrew Beattie, D.L.; Miss Hampson, Lady Superintendent Portobello Hospital; Miss MacDonnell, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent Richmond Hospital; Miss Lamont, Lady Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; Miss Balfe and Richard Dowse, Esq., K.L., Hon. Secretaries; and Miss M. E. MacDonnell, Secretary. Applications for membership from nurses were considered and confirmed, after which other business was discussed, in the course of which the Hon. Secretaries drew the attention of the Council to the fact that the subscriptions paid by nurses and the

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