

hospitals had been duly considered when the Bill was drafted, and that the friends of the measure believed it to be eminently fair and just. She argued that nurses receiving special training are not competent to handle general cases.

Dr. Henry Beates, jun., and Dr. Willard, both of Philadelphia, vigorously defended the Bill. Dr. Beates declared that nurses should have a general training before taking up special work. The Bill, he said, would not be unjust to any nurse whose training enables her to undertake any kind of general nursing.

After listening for two hours to the pros and cons of the merits of the Bill, the hearing was brought to a close. The nurses who had travelled to Harrisburg to accomplish results then took the Committee-men individually in hand to argue against the admission of any amendments to the Bill. They stuck to their guns until they had won, and the Committee did the only thing it could be reasonably expected to do under the circumstances.

It is said that not a few of the nurses present in support of the Bill, and opposing any amendment, demonstrated an ability to lobby which made more than a few Senators green with envy.

The following State Associations have also Bills before their Legislatures:—California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, and Massachusetts. In Massachusetts and Connecticut the Bills are meeting with considerable opposition, but we do not doubt that this will eventually be overcome. The others are meeting with various degrees of success.

THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW.

We learn from a leading American Superintendent that in the United States the passage of Acts for the Registration of Nurses, and the prospect of the passage of such Acts, has had a marked upbuilding effect upon the curriculum of many training-schools. In many cases the term of training has been lengthened from two to three years, improvement in the teaching of obstetrics is almost universal, provision for practical experience in the care of children is being added in many hospitals, and both practical and theoretical subjects have been added to the curriculum, such as Domestic Science, Massage, and Materia Medica. There is also an awakening of interest in preliminary training. In fact, it is unquestionably demonstrated that in a year and a half of State Registration the power of the law has accomplished more than the combined influence of the American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools and the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States have been able to do through voluntary effort in all the years of their existence. Indeed, proof is already afforded that, from an educational standpoint, State Registration is having even more influence in improving the status of training-schools than in the beginning seemed possible.

The City Financiers' Nurses' Scheme.

* Trained nurses will be pleased to know that the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association passed the following resolution unanimously on March 16th, and forwarded it signed by the President, Mrs. Morgan Dockrell, to the Board of Trade. Proposed by Mrs. J. G. Haslam, seconded by Miss Welply, R.D.C.:—

"That, in the judgment of this meeting the proposed Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, the Memorandum of which appeared in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, February 11th, if incorporated by the Board of Trade, would be totally opposed to the principle of Representative Government, and would be a most arbitrary interference with the rights of the nurses of the United Kingdom, who have a Bill before Parliament asking for the State Examination, Registration, and proper control of their body, and who, from their individual and collective experience are far better judges of their professional requirements than any body of laymen, however eminent, can possibly be."

There is the whole matter in a nutshell.

We learn that although dozens of Protests from Nursing Societies, Matrons and Nurses, Medical Societies, Hospital Societies, and Committees have been poured into the Board of Trade, praying it not to grant incorporation to the Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses, and also though leading Matrons like Miss Stewart and Miss Huxley have given their reasons for such opposition to the Signatories, that the promoters of the Society have circularised Hospital Committees, still ignoring the nurses, inviting them to support their petition to the Board of Trade for power to control the nursing profession.

The fact that the promoters of this Society have ignored the Nursing Profession almost entirely—only submitting the Constitution to a few Matrons and Midwives at the Midwives' Institute, the majority of whom have kept themselves carefully aloof from the great nursing reform movement—is one of the most significant warnings the profession has had of the spirit in which they propose to work, and sounds a note of danger we should be most foolish to ignore.

In proof of this contention we publish here an answer to a letter sent by us as Editor of this Journal to Sir E. Cooper-Perry, of Guy's Hospital, who was reported to have drafted the Memorandum, asking for a copy for publication, as its provisions were of vital importance to our readers:—

Bank of England,

February 2nd, 1905.

DEAR MADAM,—In answer to your letter of the 30th inst, addressed to Sir Cooper Perry, I am desired

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