

Progress of State Registration.

Will our readers kindly note that the quarterly election of new members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will take place on Friday, October 6th, so that any who are not already members, and who desire to help on the cause of State Registration, should send in applications before that date to the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London. She will be pleased to supply application forms if requested, in which case a stamp for postage should be enclosed.

In our issues of September 23rd and 30th we propose to publish our remarks on the Report of the Select Committee on the Registration of Nurses, when we shall hope to elicit the opinions of Matrons and Nurses on the various points at issue in connection with this important document. We also propose to refer more in detail to the evidence of each witness, beginning with the first Blue Book.

An admirable article in the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* on the Report of the Select Committee concludes as follows:—

“The Report marks a stage in the long struggle, but it is only a stage. The recommendations of the Committee must be drafted in a Bill and be presented to Parliament. In Parliament the anti-registrationists will have a virgin field for their operations. Few members will read the evidence collected by the Select Committee; many will readily accept the superficial and well-known theories on which anti-registrationists base their opposition. Others will never have been brought into contact with illness or nursing, and will remain convinced that a nurse is a ‘product made in heaven,’ to whom technical education is wholly unnecessary. Some will be well up in the ‘Cottage Nurse’ theory, while a number will be dead against any form of organisation of labour, fearing that it will enhance cost or lead to trade union methods. These are the inevitable obstacles in the way of all progressive movements, and they point to the continued necessity for resolute and persistent effort. It is inconceivable that any nurse who is loyal to the interests of her profession can voluntarily stand aside and allow this great crisis in its history to pass beside her without lifting a finger to co-operate or to direct the movement. But too many argue that there is no help which they can give. Others are immersed in the technical gossip of bedside nursing—consequently only 1,500 nurses have as yet joined the Society for Promoting State Registration, and it is practically impossible to find anyone inside the profession (with four exceptions) willing and able to put the case for registration simply and clearly before their sisters. Up to now the work has fallen on a few willing shoulders, but encouraged by this Report it is to be hoped that a wave of energy will sweep through the profession and that the remaining victory will be won through the co-operation and united action of all nurses.”

The Transvaal Medical Council have resolved that all nurses who were on the Register of the Transvaal Medical Society prior to the taking effect of the ordinance for their Registration by the State shall be accepted for Registration without further examination. The report of the Examiners as to the result of the recent examination for nurses held in Pretoria was read. Nine candidates were examined and all passed. In their Report the examiners commented on the high standard attained by the candidates. Considerable discussion took place on the subject of the registration of midwives. It was strongly felt that only properly registered midwives should be allowed to attend confinements, and, in the absence of legislation to that end, every effort should be made to educate the public to realise the necessity for thorough qualification.

Nurses and midwives in the Orange River Colony are now registered under the Medical and Pharmacy Council of that colony. The Council charges a fee of 10s. 6d. for Registration, and a fee of £2 is charged for examination to those not already possessing certificates. The *South African Medical Record* expresses regret that the Orange River Colony Council has fixed the very low standard of twelve beds for training-schools for nurses. This, it says, must inevitably interfere with inter-colonial reciprocity, as the Cape has just followed the very good example set by the Transvaal and Natal in levelling up in this direction very considerably. The Regulations for governing the conduct of registered nurses and midwives are very excellent and explicit. They include as offences liable to discipline, breach of contract, alcoholic or immoral habits, failure to obey orders of medical attendant, and revealing patients' private affairs.

Fractured Ribs in a Padded Room.

More light is needed on the case of an engine-driver recently admitted to the South Yorkshire Asylum at Wadsley, when, according to the evidence of the medical officer who admitted him, he was free from all marks of violence. To the best of his belief the patient was going on all right up to the Saturday night following. Early the next morning he was called to the man, who was in a state of collapse, but before he could reach the padded room the patient was dead. His body was covered with bruises, and ten ribs had been fractured. The injuries might have been caused by the patient falling over the hair mattress in the padded room. The foreman of the jury ridiculed this theory, and another medical man expressed the opinion that the injuries were the direct result of great violence. The verdict was that death resulted from fractured ribs and shock, but how caused there was not sufficient evidence to show.

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