

DEPUTATION TO THE LORD PRESIDENT OF  
THE COUNCIL.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe, the Lord President of the Privy Council, received an influential deputation, introduced by Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., at the Privy Council Office, Whitehall, on Thursday, the 8th inst., at 12 noon, to lay before him the necessity for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Amongst those invited to form the deputation (which is being received as we go to Press) are Viscount Morpeth, M.P.; Sir John Dickson Poynder, M.P.; Mr. Charles Hobhouse, M.P.; Mr. C. D. Rose, M.P.; Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S.; Sir James Crichton Browne, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. H. Langley Browne, the Marchioness of Londonderry, the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson; Miss Louisa Stevenson, President Society for the State Registration of Nurses; Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, L.L.D.; Miss E. S. Haldane, Chairman Scottish Registration Committee; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. President International Council of Nurses; Miss Isla Stewart, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss S. E. Hampson, President Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Peter, late General Superintendent Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses; Miss H. L. Pearse, Matron Great Northern Hospital; Miss Mollett, Matron Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton; Miss Barton, Matron Chelsea Infirmary; Miss C. Forrest, Matron Victoria Nurses' Institute, Bournemouth; and Miss M. Breay, Hon. Sec. Matrons' Council.

## REGISTRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

We are glad to note that our criticism pointing out the injustice to Colonial nurses that the Transvaal Medical Council registers nurses on the certificate of the R.B.N.A. is receiving attention in the South African medical press. The *South African Medical Record* says that the fact of a nurse holding the R.B.N.A. certificate makes no difference whatever in Cape Colony. Any foreign nurse can register, providing she holds a certificate after examination for three years' training. It then quotes our argument that as both training and examination in the United Kingdom are unknown quantities, British nurses should be required to submit themselves to the same examination as Colonial nurses in Colonies where an educational standard is enforced. We hope the Cape Medical Council will institute this test in justice to its own nurses. No doubt it would do so if the Matrons and nurses themselves pointed out the disadvantages of the existing arrangement.

## Fallow=Corner.

Among the many earnest efforts which are being made in our day towards the betterment of mankind generally, and the preservation of infant life in particular, the care of those hapless children who are born "out of wedlock" is one not the least deserving of notice. Legislation, Social Reform movements, the work of the Church do something, and will doubtless do more in time, to raise the standard of morals and lessen the birthrate of illegitimate children; but meanwhile they are always with us, in their appalling numbers. Stamped from their birth as "children of shame," nameless, unprovided for, what becomes of them as the years go on? We know that they form a certain percentage of the inmates of our workhouses and charity schools; and if we penetrate further, into the prisons and asylums, we shall be able to trace the lives of many under their roofs to this same haphazard commencement. And finding them there, stunted, unhealthy, imbecile, with natural proclivities to evil (so it is said), we are too ready to assert that all these conditions are more or less the result of their birth, *i.e.*, of their illegitimacy. But is this so? In denying it, as well as in befriending these children or their mothers, I am well aware that we risk the accusation of "putting a premium on sin," an accusation which I utterly refute, on grounds of which time and observation will best prove the stability. It is true that some of the infants are born with hereditary disease of the worst kind, but this fact does not obtain by any means in the majority of cases, for, be it remembered, the abuse of the generative faculties tends to destroy the capability of reproduction, and harlots do not bear children; nor is this disease to be found only among illegitimate offspring. Even the efforts of the mothers to produce abortion by means of drugs, except in so far as they may injure the health of the mother, cannot be said to have any serious effects upon the child. The Sister in charge of the lying-in wards of one of our largest infirmaries told me that in her long experience of some nine years she had found most of the illegitimate babies fine, healthy, well-formed specimens. "Why not?" she added. "They are for the most part first babies, born of young, vigorous parents — in fact 'love-children,' which they say in the country are always the most beautiful."

But take these same babies two or three months later, and what do we see? Pallid, emaciated, or flabby wizened caricatures of a

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