

Benevolent Attention of the Government.

Another course remained to be considered, that was the introduction of a Bill into the House of Lords, in which case it would receive the benevolent attention of the Government, and full discussion, that was if there was any opposition, for in order to obtain discussion opposition was necessary. For this reason it might be well to secure a reasonable amount of opposition.

The Serious Attention of Parliament.

In any case, it could not be long before the subject occupied the serious attention of Parliament. Meanwhile those members of the House of Commons who were interested in the Registration of Nurses would no doubt do what they could to further its interests.

Mr. Tennant, in replying to Lord Crewe, said he was very glad to learn that a Bill, if introduced into the House of Lords, would receive the benevolent attention of the Government. The idea might be put into action, in which case he ventured to hope that the Bill might receive not only benevolent attention but some assistance in Committee. He further stated that some of the Deputation had spent the best years of their lives in the furtherance of this important national work.

The Deputation then withdrew.

Progress of State Registration.

We understand that a protest against the conduct of business at the last Special General Meeting of the R.B.N.A., and against the Constitution of the Central Board in the re-drafted Registration Bill of the Association, thrust through at that meeting, has been drawn up and signed by the majority of Matrons of standing, who still remain in the Association, and that it is to be forwarded to the Executive Committee and General Council. In the opinion of the protesting Matrons the Bill as constituted hands over the government and control of the Nursing Profession to medical men.

The Matrons' Council.

Owing to the demands upon our space made by the report of the reception of a deputation by the Lord President of the Privy Council, on the subject of State Registration, we have been compelled to hold over the account of the Matrons' Council meeting, held on March 9th, till our next issue.

A Nurse's Life in South Africa.

By MISS H. KENEALY.

To the question so often put by nurses at home, "What is a nurse's life like in South Africa?" one has to reply by another question, "Which part of South Africa do you mean?" People are apt to lose sight of the fact that Africa, south of the Zambesi even, is a very large territory, and that each of the Colonies—Cape Colony, Natal, the Transvaal, and the Orange River Colony, and also Rhodesia—differ from each other in many ways. Cape Colony has a separate Government from Natal and interprets differently the Roman Dutch law in force. The Transvaal and Orange River Colony have another Government, and in each of these Colonies the local laws and social customs and conditions may differ from the other.

Now, travellers who have visited one of the colonies will often speak of the spot on which they pitched their tent as "South Africa," in consequence very conflicting accounts are received, with an abiding conviction that it is a hot place to live in. I have, myself, been rather far afield through South Africa, and so have met with nearly every possible climate and atmosphere, except a London fog, and one could get that easily enough by planting a few smoky furnaces in a chosen district.

"You have only to sit on your doorstep long enough and you can get every change of air the world produces," a newly-arrived Englishman will say, and the Colonist will join anyone in grumbling at the weather. For myself I have felt more severe cold in the Orange River Colony than in Scotland, while Lorenzo Marques is hotter than any other place I would care to go to—so hot that even the Englishmen cannot always play cricket in the afternoon.

"What place would you advise me to go to?" is another question asked, and the answer again would depend very much on individual taste and preferences. The stumbling block of offence to most women other than nurses arriving in South Africa is to find the houses and homes, and domestic life generally, to be "un-English." It seems to be held as a grievance that in English-speaking countries the habits, customs, and feelings of the people should be different to ours. This prejudice is, of course, very much more marked amongst uneducated people. Nursemaids and servants brought out by employers, strongly disapprove of colonial ways and will frequently demand to be sent home by the next boat. Ladies newly married coming out with their husbands, and likewise teachers and tutors on first

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)