

Progress of State Registration.

IN GERMANY.

British nurses will unite with us in offering heartiest congratulations to the German Nurses' Association, and also to nurses throughout the Empire, on the fact that the hard work of their brave pioneer nurses, headed by Sister Agnes Karll, has been crowned with success, and that on Friday in last week the Bill for the State Examination of Nurses passed its second reading in the Bundesrat. We publish in another column Sister Karll's letter conveying this welcome intelligence. It is not often that legislation has so far-reaching effects as has an Act for the Registration of Nurses, and we congratulate all those who have worked to obtain this reform on the success of their efforts.

It really seemed as if Great Britain, which was the first country to suggest legislation for nurses, will be the last to obtain it. Let us hope that our Act, if the last, will also be the best.

IN CANADA.

From the *Canadian Nurse* we have the good news that the Bill for the Registration of Nurses, and Incorporation of the Ontario Registered Nurses' Association has been made a Public Bill and received its first reading before the Ontario House on March 1st, so that it will, no doubt, soon become law. The important point in this Bill is that it provides for self-government for Ontario nurses. The Council, the Governing Body, is composed of four medical practitioners, and eleven registered nurses—three of whom must be superintendents of training schools.

When we realise that it is probable that the number of nurses this Bill affects will be counted in hundreds instead of, as with us, in thousands, we gather that the Ontario nurses consider, in asking for a Board of fifteen persons, that there will be a great amount of work to do. This is the reason why nurses at home wish for a somewhat large and thoroughly representative Governing Body.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

We often feel under the wonderful British Constitution that "once a law always a law" has its disadvantages. And so it has. But we begin to feel that this is preferable to the airy manner in which apparently irresponsible persons are permitted to amend and attempt to destroy beneficent laws in the United States. No sooner has the Registration of Nurses' Act in the State of New York begun to do its good work than we find a Dr. Edward E. Hicks, of Brooklyn, promoting a Bill to nullify its provisions. This new Bill had for its object the repeal of the Bill promoted by the nurses, and the establishment of a Commission for the

Regulation of the Practice of Nursing to be composed of three medical gentlemen, drawing the modest salaries of 7,500, 4,500, and 4,000 dols. respectively, with a Board of five examiners composed also of physicians.

The Commission was to inspect at least once a year all training schools or institutions which might be in any way connected with a training school; to supervise the training of all student nurses in such training schools, regulating the hours of service, rest and recreation, to receive and remedy complaints made by any pupil nurse, or official, or any citizen concerning the administration of such training schools; to formulate a curriculum of study, and to make rules and regulations governing the examination of student nurses and the granting of diplomas to the same.

The said Board was to hold and conduct examinations of applicants for licenses to practice nursing, all applicants of whatever class having first to pass an examination before being granted this license.

Needless to say, the trained nurses of the State of New York were at once called upon to oppose this pernicious measure, and as we go to press we are delighted to be able to congratulate them upon the fact that their united action has defeated this iniquitous Bill.

In the State of Maryland an amendment has been also before the legislature to compel the recognition of training schools which continue the practice of sending pupils out to earn money for the hospital, the old worn-out plea of nurses for the deserving poor being the reason given instead of the honest statement that the law as it stands interferes with the commercial interests of a certain class of hospitals. This measure was vigorously opposed by the Maryland State Nurses' Association and the supporter of the existing law; in this instance also, the co-operation of the nurses prevented this dangerous amendment becoming law.

In the States of Iowa and Massachusetts the Bills may very likely be withdrawn rather than accept poor standards and bad laws, so that it will be seen that our colleagues across the Atlantic have also to suffer from interested and ignorant opposition largely due to the fact that women are a disfranchised class, practically prohibited from framing and carrying through just laws in relation to their own work. Sometimes we are inclined to agree with the late Miss Blackburn that no laws referring to women's work as apart from that of men, should be made until after they have secured the Parliamentary suffrage.

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