

But if nurses ever know of such improper things, does it ever strike them that all these commercial undertakings are taking thousands of pounds every year away from trained nurses, and making the best trained nurses constantly compete for their daily bread with women who have never been trained at all?

I am personally convinced that the great majority of trained nurses are sufficiently sensible to understand that, if they want anything in this work-a-day world, they must simply get it for themselves; and that, once they realise the immense benefits which would accrue to themselves if Registration were obtained, they possess too much self-respect to let others bear all the brunt and do all the work of obtaining those benefits for them. And to such nurses, a few words of common-sense may be addressed by an impartial outsider.

They should, in the first place, understand the present position of this Registration movement. A Select Committee of the House of Commons last Session strongly reported in favour of Registration. As sensible men of the world, the Committee quite grasped the great benefits of such a scheme to the public at large. The medical profession in this country, through the British Medical Association, has pronounced strongly in favour of Registration. As medical men, they see the great advantage such a scheme will be to themselves and to their patients.

Now it is the Trained Nurses' duty to take action. Everyone knows that, for many years, the majority have left the burden of this great movement to be borne by a few. If nurses wish for the immense advantages of Registration, they must themselves, personally and individually, help in the necessary work to gain that end.

Every single nurse could do something, and everyone who holds back at this particular crisis in the nursing movement is not only playing an unworthy part, but is weakening the force which could, and can only, be gained by Union. If nurses united together at once, I, and others, firmly believe that they would soon achieve complete success. They have excellent leaders, who have shown themselves possessed of remarkable courage, tenacity, and organising power. If nurses will support their leaders, there can be no question that, within a short time, the Registration of Trained Nurses will be an accomplished fact.

The first essential in organising such a movement as this, is to have ready inter-communication with every co-worker, so that all can know exactly what is being done, how it is being done, and how her own efforts can best be

utilised for the general success. So, if I might make a practical suggestion, it would be this, that every nurse should subscribe to the only weekly paper which, so far as I know, consistently supports Registration in this country—I mean, of course, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING; that she should read the excellent articles which appear in that Journal upon Registration, and show these to her friends and patients. Also, that if she, or any of her friends, know a Member of Parliament that they should write to him and interest him in the question; and, certainly in such an event, every nurse who knows a Member of Parliament should state that fact to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which is organising the movement, and which, I understand, has already secured the promises of a very large number of prospective Members to take an interest in Parliament on this particular question.

I believe that the leaders have done all they can, for they have brought Registration into the sphere of practical politics. It depends now simply on every individual nurse, on her loyalty, her union with her fellow workers, her help to her leaders, when Registration will be won.

[We refer readers of this article to the open letter of the Editor on page iv.]

A New Year's Gift.

A most welcome New Year's gift of £10 has been received by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses from its ever generous President, Miss Louisa Stevenson. Coming just at the time when the Society has to meet all the expenses of re-drafting the Bill and of entering upon a Parliamentary campaign, it is doubly acceptable.

We are asked to remind the members that subscriptions are now due for the current year.

Our Prize Competitions.

As Prize Competitions appear to be very popular amongst nurses we would draw the attention of our readers to our three competitions, the rules for which will be found in the last column.

We offer £2 2s. for the best article on a Practical Nursing Subject of from 1,300 to 1,400 words, of which illustrations, though not compulsory, add to its value; £1 1s. to the winner of the Puzzle Prize, and 10s. 6d. for the best article of about 500 words on an 'Interesting Reminiscence During Training.';

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