

## Progress of State Registration.

### THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND REGISTRATION.

In the Annual Report of the Medico-Political Committee to the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, which is to be held in London next week, Clause 6 deals with the State Registration of Nurses as follows:—

#### STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Pursuant to the instruction of the Representative Meeting at Leicester, the subject of State Registration of Nurses has again been referred to the Divisions (Supplement of March 3rd, 1906).

The questions submitted were as follows:—

- (1) Does the Division approve in general of the method of Registration of Nurses proposed by the Select Committee of the House of Commons?
- (2) Does the Division approve of the separate Registration of Midwifery Nurses?

Twenty-six Divisions have reported to the Committee their resolutions upon Question (1) and sixteen upon Question (2).

Upon Question (1) twenty express unqualified approval, two approve conditionally upon a minimum of three years' training being required for admission to the Register, three express disapproval of State Registration, and one deems any system of Registration unnecessary.

The following resolution, inspired we believe, by Sir James Crichton Browne, was approved by the North Cumberland Division of the Borders Counties Branch of the British Medical Association.

The members of the Border Counties Branch of the British Medical Association hereby record their opinion that on any Central Board formed by legislative enactment to superintend the education, registration, and discipline of nurses, there should be medical representatives at least equal in number to the Representatives of the Nursing Body.

### THE NATIONAL POOR LAW OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION.

The *Poor Law Officers' Journal* says that "It will be little short of a public calamity if the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses of the British Nurses' Association is allowed to pass through Parliament."

There is no doubt it is a rank bad Bill, unjust in principle and faulty in construction and the fears expressed by the National Poor Law Officers' Association concerning its injurious effects upon nursing in Poor Law Infirmaries, applies equally to every other branch of nursing.

The Committee of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association state wisely "that it would be inexpedient for the Association to oppose the principle of Registration of Nurses, provided the interests of the Poor-Law Nursing Service are duly safeguarded." This latter clause, says its official organ, contains the principle on which the Service is not only united, but for whose acceptance it will have to contend by the use of every means at its disposal. The protection and development of the higher side of Poor-Law Nursing means much to all Officers, for it is quite easy to perceive that in proportion as this particular part of Poor-Law Official life is raised, so all the other parts will be raised with it; while just as the worth of our nursing can be depreciated, by so much will all Poor-Law administration be depressed in public estimation. We want to see the higher ends of Poor-Law work recognised duly, so that Poor-Law services may be set down at their full value. Poor-Law nursing must then be recognised as of equal importance with voluntary nursing, and a nurse in a Poor-Law hospital on one side of a street must, as a nurse, be placed in registration on an equality with a nurse in a voluntary hospital on the other side of it."

With this opinion we are in sincere agreement, and the Bill drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses provides for the recognition of Poor-Law infirmaries as training schools, so long as their curriculum conforms to the required standard and places the nurses so trained upon exactly the same footing, so far as their vote is concerned, as nurses trained in voluntary hospitals, so that they will have the power to elect on to the governing body such representatives as they think fit to safeguard their interests.

### The Registered Nurses' Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Society was held at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, on Thursday the 12th inst. These were lavishly decorated with all sorts of lovely summer flowers sent by the members themselves, and as usual most tastefully arranged. Dr. Bedford Fenwick, who so carefully conserves the finances, was in the chair, and there was a good gathering of members to receive from the Committee a very encouraging report of the twelfth year's work.



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