

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 978.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1906.

Vol. XXXVII

Nursing in 1906.

Once more, according to our annual custom, we devote in this the last issue of the present year some space to a brief review of the events of special interest and importance in the Nursing World during the last twelve months.

THE REGISTRATION MOVEMENT.

During the past year the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has gained in force as the subject has come to be better understood. Undoubtedly the unanimous Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons in July, 1905, "that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State," has had great weight not only with members of Parliament, but with the public at large.

At the beginning of the year interest was centred on the question of the constitution of the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, to be created under an Act of Parliament, owing to the retrograde action of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association. In its previous Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, it had provided for a majority of Direct Representatives of the nurses on the Central Board suggested, but in January, 1906, it presented to the members a redrafted Bill, in which six of the seven Direct Representatives of the nurses were swept away, leaving only one such Direct Representative on a Board of sixteen—provision being made for six, with a possibility of eight nominated medical practitioners, and five Matrons elected by themselves.

At a Special General Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, held on January 19th, a resolution was unanimously carried strongly condemning this retrograde action, and asserting that any Registration Bill which does not make full provision for the direct representation of trained nurses on their Governing Body contravenes a cardinal principle of justice and should be actively opposed. Ultimately the Bill drafted by the R.B.N.A. provided for three Direct

Representatives, still leaving the Matrons and nurses in a minority upon the Governing Body of their own profession.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses also revised the constitution of its General Nursing Council, the object being so far as possible to fall into line with the recommendations of the Select Committee that this Governing Body should not exceed fifteen members. It was ultimately found impossible to suggest a Council of less than nineteen members. Of these, ten were to be registered nurses (one half of whom must be Matrons) directly elected by the registered nurses themselves. The interests of mental nurses were considered by the provision for the election of a past or present Matron of an Asylum for the Insane, by the nurses on the Mental Nurses' Register.

Provision was also made for the appointment of three persons by the Privy Council, and of five medical practitioners, one by the General Medical Council, three by the British Medical Association, and one by the Medico-Psychological Association. A "Bill to regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for their registration," embodying this constitution was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Munro-Ferguson, M.P., on June 14th.

Although the ultimate decision must rest with Parliament, the Society felt it would be untrue to its principles and to the interests of the nursing profession if it did not incorporate in its Bill the request for this measure of self-government.

DEPUTATIONS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

Two deputations on the subject of State Registration of Trained Nurses have been received by the Lord President of the Council, the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe.

REGISTRATIONISTS.

The first, on March 8th, in favour of State Registration was invited and introduced by Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., who presented the case for registration with convincing eloquence, and asked the Lord President whether the Government would undertake legislation on this

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