

Progress of State Registration.

The Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses "To regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for their registration," will be introduced again this year, without alteration, by Mr. R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P., who has proved himself by this and other kindnesses a good friend of the Registration Cause.

Mr. H. J. Tennant, who has done so much to bring the question of State Registration of Trained Nurses into the sphere of practical politics, still continues to show a warm interest in the question.

Miss Henrietta C. Poole, Matron of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary, will give an address on State Registration, at the Annual Meeting of the Manchester, Salford and District Branch of the National Union of Women Workers, which is to be held in the Lord Mayor's Parlour, at the Town Hall, Manchester, at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5th.

The Paris Conference.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will open the Session at the Paris Conference on Nursing Organisation and the place of Professional Journals therein, and Miss M. E. P. Davis, of Boston, U.S.A., who was the actual promoter, and who took a leading part in founding the *American Journal of Nursing*, will sketch its history during the Session. This adds one more of the leaders of the American Nursing World, who intend to be present and take part in the Conference. To meet Miss Nutting, Miss Fulmer, Miss Wald, Miss Rogers, Miss Davis, and Miss L. L. Dock, all women who have done splendid work for the sick, and incidentally for the profession they adorn, will be an occasion not to be missed by European nurses.

Sister Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, who has also promised the story of Nursing Organisation in Germany, will take part in the discussion on professional journals, as the representative of *Unterm Lazaruskreuz*, while Dr. Hamilton has promised the history of *La Garde Malade Hospitalière*.

Papers are already promised in France by Dr. Bourneville on Laicisation, by Dr. Anna Hamilton on her work in the foundation of a nurse training school on Nightingale lines, by Mme. Alphen Salvador on the school in the Rue Amyot, and by Mlle. Chaptal on *Enfants Trouvés*.

The reception of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Isla Stewart in Paris has been most cordial, and already a full list of social functions is arranged for every day of the Conference week.

Sidney Herbert.*

A PIONEER OF NURSING REFORM.

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MISS NIGHTINGALE'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH
MR. HERBERT.

Miss Nightingale's correspondence with Mr. Herbert, though couched in highly coloured language, shows her keen insight, and organising ability. The pity of it is that she appears to have been so little able to appreciate the good work of others. Concerning this correspondence, Lord Stanmore says:—

"Her reiterated and unsparing censure of everyone, almost without exception, who had any part in the working of the hospital cannot be read without producing some involuntary reaction, and inspiring some doubt as to its unqualified accuracy.

"It is impossible to speak in too high terms of Miss Nightingale's great qualities, and equally great work, but as every medal has its reverse, and every picture its shadows, it cannot be denied that these great capacities were accompanied, as they often are, especially in women, by a jealous impatience of any rival authority, and an undue intolerance of all opposition or difference of opinion. The very vehemence of zeal which enabled her to perform so much led her to exaggerate the faults of those who disagreed with her. She gave full rein to the promptings of a somewhat censorious spirit. In the whole of her voluminous correspondence with Sidney Herbert I look in vain for praise or approval of any individual, except herself, Mr. and Mrs. Bracebridge, and two doctors. Everyone else, high and low, male and female, Lord Stratford, Lord Raglan, Lady Stratford, Miss Stanley, and all Miss Stanley's companions, Lord William Paulet, Dr. Smith, Dr. Hall, Dr. Cumming, Dr. Menzies, Mr. Filder, Mr. Wreford, and hosts of inferior officers and others, including all her own staff, 'except about 16,' are denounced with the utmost vigour of expression, not merely as inefficient, but as utterly incompetent and incapable. She went, indeed, so far as to say—and that more than once—that she herself and five others (the Bracebridges and doctors aforesaid) were the only people who cared at all for the sick, or had done anything for their relief.

"When compared with the great work which she did the blemishes to which I refer are trifles. Her unique and isolated position,

* Sidney Herbert, Lord Herbert of Lea: A Memoir by Lord Stanmore. (John Murray, Albemarle Street, W. 24s.)

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