

## Progress of State Registration.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, will be introduced into the House of Commons at an early date by Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., and supported by Sir John Dickson-Poynder (L., Chippenham), Sir G. S. Robertson, K.C.S.I. (L., Bradford, Cen.), Mr. C. D. Rose (L., Newmarket), Mr. Rolland Rainy, M.B., C.M. Edin. (L., Kilmarnock Burghs), Mr. V. H. Rutherford, M.B. (L., Brentford), Mr. H. T. Eve, K.C. (L., Ashburton, Devon), Mr. A. Fell (U., Yarmouth), Mr. W. Crooks (Lab., Woolwich), Mr. Jowett (Lab., Bradford, W.), and Mr. W. McKillop (N., Armagh, S.). It is satisfactory to note that Sir G. S. Robertson, Mr. A. Rolland Rainy, and Mr. V. H. Rutherford are members of the medical profession.

A very pleasant meeting to consider the questions of State Registration for Trained Nurses, and of Women's Suffrage, was held at the Chelsea Infirmary, by invitation of Miss E. C. Barton, President of the Chelsea Nurses' League, on Wednesday evening. Several Poor Law Matrons were amongst the guests present. Miss Barton, who occupied the chair, said that amongst those who were unavoidably prevented from being present was Lady Loch, Registration of Nurses was enforced in South Africa, while the late Lord Loch was Governor of Cape Colony, and the women of the Isle of Man obtained their vote while he held office.

After the registration question had been discussed at some length, Miss L. A. Jenner spoke on Women's Suffrage. She said that it was an accepted principle that taxation without representation was tyranny, our Government was nominally a representative one, and we claimed that we had government of the people, by the people, for the people, but could this really be so when one half of the nation was not allowed a voice in the election of Members of Parliament? The speaker pointed out how women's questions were always shelved because it was both the duty and the interest of Members of Parliament to look after the concerns of their male electors. This was a point which affected a body of professional women, such as nurses, who were trying to get a Bill passed to improve the condition of their profession. Whenever women's questions were before Parliament, sooner or later, women were met by a dead wall. They were without the essential weapon with which to fight. Those who doubted the truth of this had never looked straight and square at things as they are.

## Practical Points.

Occasional Attendance on a Patient at Night.

M.D.B., writing in the *American Journal of Nursing*, says: When a patient only requires care at night occasionally when awake, I pin a tape with a safety pin so that it will be

within his reach. The other end I have tied about my wrist. In that way I can sleep in the next room or even several rooms away. This is particularly useful when near the elevated road or any other noisy place, and it has the advantage over a call bell in that it does not disturb other members of the family. I have the tape long enough so that I can turn over with ease.

### An Ingenious Emergency Cradle.

Mrs. Alfred Paine, of Bedford, has designed a very useful cradle, which can readily be made in an emergency. It consists of a child's hoop cut in two not quite equal halves, so that each end rests level on the ground. A hoop is always easily procured, and the two halves, fastened together by a screw having a ring attached can then be adjusted at any angle, or, when not in use, will hang up quite flat against the wall, taking no space. A most durable cradle is one made on the same pattern in enamelled iron. If used for a restless case, a tape may be fastened to each leg of the cradle, and it can then be secured to the mattress.

The *American Journal of the Physiological* has a paper on this subject by D. L. Edsall. He states that the limitations of this method

as a means of furnishing food, not its therapeutical limitations as a means of combatting symptoms, are very narrow. Those who are thus fed lose in general nutrition and lose in weight. The fact that the patient himself feels better for this form of treatment is not evidence that he has improved in nutrition, though it may mean that the disease which has suggested this treatment has ameliorated. The amount which may be absorbed in twenty-four hours under favourable conditions is the equivalent in nutriment of one glass of milk. The chief advantages of rectal alimentation consist in furnishing mental satisfaction, water, and salts to the body, and to this extent it furnishes a direct and positive gain. As to the food substances, the proteids, fats, and carbohydrates, all are absorbed by the lower bowel, but far less freely than when taken by the mouth. In cases in which there is troublesome vomiting or any other transitory cause rectal alimentation is most important, but it should be employed only so long as may be required by the conditions affecting the usual channel for food. Intestinal putrefaction has been observed to be excessive when the use of the rectum for feeding is prolonged.

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