

A correspondent writes from New York:—  
 “Miss Alline has assumed her duties of inspectorship under the Regents, and it will assuredly not be proper to judge her work too critically for some little time, because the former male lay inspector, with the best intentions in the world, made many blunders in the registration of schools which cannot possibly be undone immediately. It is all a slow up-hill work. I would like, however, to point out, that certain schools registered appear to be unworthy because they are connected with special hospitals; but these schools have affiliated with general hospitals and with other special institutions, and so their nurses now receive a good general training. This affiliation, of course, is just what is most desirable to bring about and encourage. The practical effects of registration are daily being felt. Miss Rogers requires the R.N. for the public school service. It is now possible to refute triumphantly from practical experiences, the sheet-anchor of the ‘antis.’ that nurses will be accepted from a public register without inquiry into their personal qualifications. Exactly the reverse is true. The personal qualifications and the careful investigation into character and fitness remain as before of first importance, but the R.N. is demanded as a proof of practical preparation by training. Nowhere, in the whole country, has registration had the effect of obscuring the importance of character.

I heard the other day from a lawyer, of a midwife conducting a criminal practice, who was ‘believed to be’ a registered nurse. A reference to the roll of registered nurses was sufficient to show that she was not there. As she had not actually used the title, but was mentioned on hearsay, there was no case for prosecuting her, but had we not been able to show proof, this man might have gone on thinking she was a registered nurse.

There is a very reactionary movement now going on in our village of New York (which is distinctly provincial) against the three years’ course. It is being led and fostered by a group of physicians and I should not be at all surprised to see it make some temporary headway, and, perhaps, do a good deal of harm to our training for the time being, though I do not believe that any reactionary movement can be finally successful. All progress has its opponents, and every advance stirs up the reactionaries. I do not know that it is worth while to honour them with much attention. I believe they will die out.”

### An Obsolete Scheme.

We propose in a future issue to discuss at length Dr. Bezly Thorne’s scheme for granting diplomas to nurses without defining a minimum standard of professional education. We consider his suggestions, if carried into effect, would have a most detrimental effect in obviating the necessity for practical experience in special branches of nursing, and would do a grave injury to patients in special hospitals.

### League News.

A General Meeting of the League of St. John’s House Nurses was held on Thursday, April 11th, at 12, Queen Square, Bloomsbury.

The chief business of the meeting was the election of a President and Executive Committee. The retiring President was unanimously re-elected, Miss Breay and Miss Burr being re-appointed Vice-President and Hon. Secretary respectively.

The following resolution was unanimously passed: “That the League of St. John’s House Nurses, in General Meeting assembled, begs to support the petition to be presented to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Society for the Registration of Trained Nurses, and begs that it be made a Government Measure, if possible, this Session.”

After the business had been concluded, many guests were welcomed to the first social gathering in the new Home.

Many were the words of praise and admiration expressed at the great thought and care which had been given to the designing and erection of the house to make it so eminently fitted for its purpose.

The beautiful doors on the ground floor came in for a great deal of admiration, as did also the spacious halls and handsome staircase. What a huge comfort it must be for the tired nurses to have their own little rooms; and the easy facilities for bathing with a bathroom on each floor. For the studious there is a library and as time goes on let us hope the ample book shelf accommodation may be well filled with the works of the best writers. The increased amount of light, air, and quiet which the fortunate dwellers in St. John’s House get are surely not the least of its advantages; then let us hope that the change from the old, cramped, though dearly-loved quarters to this more convenient and healthy home may bring with it to all the members of the House increased strength and vigour to press forward in the van of progress for the alleviation of suffering humanity, and the upraising of the nursing profession.

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