

## Progress of State Registration. Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will take place at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Friday, May 24th, at 4 p.m. We hope all members who can will keep this day free, and that the meeting will be well attended. It is important that all should not only feel interest, but show interest, in the question of State Registration. We know that the evils we so strongly deplore still flourish. The sweating of nurses, the nursing of patients who pay for skilled care in many nursing homes by untrained nurses, the lack of educational standards, the employment of women who have had nothing but maternity training for nursing all kinds of general cases, including mental cases. We who believe that the most potent weapon for fighting these evils is the Registration of Trained Nurses, and the regulation of the profession of nursing under State authority, are bound to work continuously until the Statute Book contains a Nurses' Registration Act. We hope that nurses will prove that they are as much interested in these vital questions as they are in the Paris Conference.

The injustice of the financial aspect of the fight for State Registration of Trained Nurses is keenly felt by the nurses who are working—as much in the public interest as their own—for this measure. Nurses, who are far from being a rich community, are paying their own expenses. The organised opposition, on the other hand, is being actively carried on by the Central Hospital Council for London, which derives its income from contributions from the constituent hospitals. It is presumable, therefore, that the charitable public are indirectly financing the political campaign of this Council against a measure of great public utility, and one which has been unanimously recommended by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. We doubt if many of the supporters of large London hospitals desire that their subscriptions for the relief of the sick poor should be utilised in this manner. The question is one which might usefully be ventilated in the House of Commons, but the practical difficulty of framing a question which will pass the Clerks is one with which members who desire to raise the subject find themselves confronted. The Charity Commissioners have no jurisdiction, neither, apparently, has any other Minister. The trouble is, therefore, to whom to address the question in the hope of securing an answer.

The Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute have submitted their report for the year to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, Patron of the Institute. They record in the first place their sincere and deep regret at the loss which they and the Institute have sustained in the resignation of the Master of St. Katherine's from his position as Chairman of the Council—an office which under the original Charter was combined with that of President of the Institute. The Council are glad that as her Majesty has been pleased to request him to continue President of the Institute, they are still able to look for his counsel and guidance, though he will not take so active a part as formerly in the administration of the work.

The Council have elected Viscount Goschen to the vacant Chairmanship.

They record with the deepest regret the death of the Countess Cadogan, who has taken a most active interest in the work of the Institute, and also of the Earl of Mansfield, almost immediately after his appointment as a member of the Council. New members welcomed on to the Council during the year, on her Majesty's appointment, have been the Countess of Aberdeen, Sir William Gull, Dr. C. J. Cullingworth, Mr. C. A. Whitmore, and Mr. D. F. Pennant. Miss Rosalind Paget has once more undertaken the onerous duty of representing the Institute on the Central Midwives' Board.

The work of the last twelve months has been one of expansion in all directions. The scope and opportunities of district nursing widen every year, and there is hardly a scheme for the improvement of the hygienic and social conditions of the poor, in which the district nurse does not find a natural place, while her co-operation is sought in all movements for the education of the poorer classes in improved and healthier conditions of life.

The Council are impressed with the importance of educating the Queen's Nurses to undertake the additional responsibilities offered from time to time, and the question of the instruction desirable to enable the nurses to realise the broader aspects of their work has been much under consideration. That the district nurse requires special instruction if she is to make the best use of her opportunities has been the accepted principle of the Institute from the outset.

Early in the year the Council raised the minimum qualification as to hospital training for Queen's Nurses to three years, of which two years, at least, must have been spent in an improved General Hospital or Infirmary. It has been impossible to meet the applications from various parts of the country for Queen's Nurses who hold the recognised midwifery certificate, in spite of much larger outlay on midwifery training. The increased applications are one direct result of the Midwives' Act of 1902, and many places where the former midwives have ceased to practice have turned to the Queen's Institute as offering a

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