

## The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1907.

We last week commented briefly on the Annual Report of the above Society, and showed that the matters with which it dealt had been already referred to in these columns. We, however, extract from the Report at length the clauses which deal with Registration abroad and in our Colonies, as they give in a briefly epitomised form the history of the past year in this connection.

#### REGISTRATION ABROAD.

*In Holland* the Dutch Association for Promoting the Interests of Female and Male Nurses, which is organised on self-governing lines, is working through its organ, *Nosokomos*, for the regulation by the State of the curriculum of nurse training schools, and for State Examinations.

*In Germany*, the German Nurses' Association has at once felt the beneficial effect of the Act for the State Examination of Nurses throughout the Empire, in an increased appreciation of the status of nurses. The Association has recently attained its incorporation, a unique distinction for a women workers' Association in Germany.

*In Denmark* the Prime Minister has sympathetically received a deputation, which urged upon him the necessity for the State Registration of nurses after three years' training, and invited his help and support.

*In the Transvaal* Registration of Nurses is carried out by the Transvaal Medical Council.

*In the United States*.—Registration Acts are now in force in the States of North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, New Hampshire, and West Virginia. In the last State the nurses had evidence of the effect of their position of voteless women. Their Bill, which was passed by the two Houses of Legislature, and which provided for a Board of Nurses, was pronounced by the Governor as unconstitutional. In this State, as in Ohio and Louisiana, only citizens who are voters can hold office under the State. The Bill was, therefore, returned to the legislature, and so amended that the Board of Examiners will be composed of physicians instead of nurses.

The Minnesota Bill was signed by the Governor on April 15th, and the Iowa Bill will become law on July 4th of this year. Thus the nurses of 13 States have already obtained registration, and in 26 more they are organised to obtain this object.

In the State of New York, Miss Alline has been appointed Inspector of Nurse Training Schools, under the New York State Department of Education. The appointment was the direct outcome of the Registration of Nurses by the State, and had been urged for two years previously by the Nurse Board of Examiners of New York.

#### IN OUR COLONIES.

*In Canada*, in consequence of the interested opposition of certain hospital managers and medical men, the Executive Board of the Ontario Trained Nurses' Association felt compelled to withdraw the Nurses' Registration Bill before its third reading. The Executive Board felt that no legislation for a time was preferable to bad legislation, and that they could not support a Measure which would put the absolute control of nursing affairs in the hands of a Council of fifteen, only seven of whom were nurses, and which would register nurses without examination should the hospital from which they graduated be approved by the above Council. They held that they would be lowering their standards should they agree to these conditions, and that the profession would lose, not gain, should the Bill become law.

*In Australia*, a Bill has been introduced into the Legislative Council in New South Wales by the Hon. Dr. C. K. Mackellar, providing for the regulation and inspection of private hospitals and the registration of trained nurses and midwives. It has been referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report. The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association rightly considers that so important a matter as the State Registration of Nurses is worthy of its own Act of Parliament. It considers that all the States should unite to obtain a Federal Bill, and that it is unwise for one to act independently. It has, therefore, asked that representatives of the Association may be called to give evidence before the Select Committee appointed to consider Dr. Mackellar's Bill.

*In New Zealand* the late Dr. D. MacGregor, Inspector-General of Hospitals and Charitable Institutions, in his Report to both Houses of the General Assembly by command of His Excellency the Governor, said:

"England is trying hard to obtain State Registration for hospital trained nurses, and the States of Australia are also moving in the same direction. New Zealand has proved, by five years' experience, the advantage to medical men and the public, as well as to the nursing profession, of having a recognised standard of proficiency, and consequently State Registration.

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