

Progress of State Registration.

Members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will deeply sympathise with the relatives of the late Mr. A. W. Black, M.P. for Banffshire, in their sudden and unexpected bereavement. Mr. Black, who succumbed to injuries received in the recent railway disaster at Elliot Junction, near Arbroath, on Friday last, was a good friend of the Registration cause, and has on each occasion backed our Bill on its introduction into the House of Commons.

We beg to thank an anonymous supporter for a donation of 5s. towards the expenses of the Nurses' Registration Petition to the Prime Minister, also the following donors, Miss Jane Wade 1s., Miss F. Skerman 2s. 6d., Miss Jack 2s. 6d., the staff of the Carlisle District Nursing Association 5s., and the Lady Superintendent and Nursing Staff at the Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh, 10s.

A prominent legislator in Australia has given notice of his intention to introduce a Bill into Parliament at an early date to provide for better supervision of Private Hospitals.

Commenting on the announcement, the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* says: "Probably all our readers will readily admit that as matters stand at present there is very urgent need of investigation into the manner in which some of these institutions are conducted. In the case of all those private hospitals recognised as training schools by the A.T.N.A. and undoubtedly in many others that do not come under this category, the management is excellent, and the work that is carried on in them is of the very highest character. But there are others in which common report leads us to fear matters are far otherwise. In them we are told the murder of unborn children is callously committed almost daily. As the law stands at present it is extremely difficult to sheet home the guilt to the right quarters in such cases, and we should welcome any Act that would prevent or punish those trained, or, happily, far more often untrained nurses who make their living in this way. There is another class of private hospital which consists of a small, ill-ventilated, insanitary and utterly unsuitable house, in which some estimable woman with a trifling knowledge of nursing and still less means, but with the best of intentions, tries to eke out her slender income by taking into her house obstetrical or medical cases at the lowest possible charges.

We can hardly conceive that any legislative measure will allow this class of hospital to continue to exist. The conditions are obviously unsuitable, and, indeed, it is for the very object of enabling the public to escape from such an environment that our well managed public and private hospitals have been established. We cannot but feel sympathy for the unfortunate proprietors who are generally so ill suited to carry on their unequal struggle for existence; but as nurses we are pledged to guard the interests of the sick, and we must therefore stand by our opinion as to what is a suitable hospital for them.

"In framing this new Act, then, the draftsmen will have to define the qualifications required of the proprietor of the hospital and to specify the minimum number of beds a licensed hospital must contain. It will also be necessary to make adequate provision as to the hygiene and regular supervision of all institutions registered under the Act. We may well feel some anxiety on the score of what qualifications will be demanded of nurses in charge of these hospitals, and we are strongly of opinion that any attempt to institute a standard lower than that required of matrons of private hospitals recognised as training schools by the A.T.N.A. should be strenuously opposed by this Association. On the other hand, should it seem likely that Parliament will accept as a minimum some such standard as we refer to we would urge our members to use their utmost endeavours to facilitate in every possible way the passage of the Bill. Such a bill might well be looked upon by us as the forerunner of one for the State Registration of Nurses upon the lines adopted by our voluntary Association."

Colonial News.

The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association now requires that those who desire to be admitted to membership, shall prove their eligibility by passing an examination. The half-yearly examination took place simultaneously in several centres in New South Wales and Queensland, as well as in Hobart and Adelaide, in December.

A question of importance in connection with this examination was brought up at a recent meeting of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association at Sydney on a letter from the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, in reference to the decision of the A.T.N.A. to examine all those who wished to become

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)