

unanimously resolved that after that date no Nurse should be Registered who had not worked for at least three years in recognised Hospitals, and of this term not less than twelve months must have been spent in a General Hospital containing at least forty beds. Of course everyone has foreseen that the Regulations would gradually be made more stringent; but this is certainly a tremendous leap in that direction.

I HEARD it stated that the managers of the Association consider that all the liberality which possibly could be expected has already been shown as to the admission of Nurses who have not received prolonged Hospital training, and that the regulations for Registration will be quickly made more stringent still. The significant fact was reported that the great majority of those Nurses who have applied for Registration are Hospital Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses, proving that it is the *elite* of the Nursing profession who have most clearly and most speedily recognised the advantages and value of Registration. It was stated also that eight hundred and sixty-two Nurses had already been enrolled; but that the labour of scrutinising each application was so great that it would probably be three months more before all the applications already received could be finally dealt with.

MEANWHILE it is certain that Registration is an accomplished fact. The names of the Members of the Board is clearest proof that the leaders of the Medical and Nursing world have determined to carry the scheme through. And if there be any Nurses who have believed any of the falsehoods so sedulously spread abroad by the opponents of Nursing reform, and have refrained, therefore, from seeking Registration at once, I earnestly advise them to reconsider the position. Let them ask why there is all this fuss made against Nurses obtaining that legal status for themselves and their calling which has been granted without demur to the members of every other profession who have sought it? Why some people are so anxious that the public should not be protected from ignorant Nurses, and that there should be no means of distinguishing trained from untrained women? The best Nurses, however, are quite aware that the opposition is not made for their sake, and are too shrewd to sacrifice a great measure of advantage to themselves, simply to please their enemies.

I HAVE no hesitation in prophesying—now that it is distinctly stated that it is the *elite* of the profession who have applied for Registration, and that in future only the very best Trained Nurses will

be Registered—that the applications will continue to pour in, as apparently they have hitherto done, literally by hundreds. I heard on good authority, by-the-bye, that the first Register of Nurses will be published next autumn, and that the work of arranging the names will be so great that the Board probably will not guarantee the appearance of the names of any Nurses who apply after August; so that those who desire to have their names appear in next year's Register must evidently send in their applications soon. I had the privilege of seeing the official-looking Certificate of Registration, which is to be sent to each Nurse, and am sure it will be highly valued.

THE important resolution about Colonial Registration also excited much interest, but this and other particulars I must leave to the report of the meeting to do justice to. But the Benevolent Scheme I think thoroughly surprised a good many of those present at the meeting. The Association is so persistently abused, and so persistently silent under it all, that a good many of us perhaps have come rather to feel sorry for it, and gently patronise its doings. Then to suddenly learn that it is so affluent as to be able to found Pensions, and to give £50 a year away to help members who may be in urgent need, certainly startles one into a more respectful frame of mind, and forces home upon one how successfully it must have been managed, and how rapidly it has grown in influence and prosperity.

I HAVE just received the Annual Report of the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle, and read the following with the greatest sympathy, which will be shared by Miss Close's many friends, who will unite with me in wishing her all health, strength, and success in carrying out the work she has undertaken.

"ON the 20th of June Miss C. P. Balkwill, who, since the 8th of December, 1884, had, with great diligence and much loving anxiety, carried on the important duties of Matron of the Hospital, resigned her charge. Her interest in the work was not diminished, but the laborious nature of her duties pressed upon her strength, and induced her to seek temporary rest. On the 18th of July, from amongst a number of well-qualified candidates, Miss Frances Hemberow Close was elected as successor to Miss Balkwill.

"MISS CLOSE had scarcely begun to discharge her duties, which she did with great intelligence and considerable ardour, when she was laid aside by an attack of diphtheria, contracted in the Infirmary. A child was brought in black in the

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