

The Colonial Nursing Association. Progress of State Registration.

As we go to press the Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association is being held at 10, Carlton House Terrace, S.W., by the kind invitation of Viscount and Viscountess Ridley. H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, Patroness of the Association, has graciously expressed her intention of being present, and Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., is in the chair. The speakers include the Earl of Crewe, K.G., Secretary of State for the Colonies, Viscount Ridley, and Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G. The Annual Report shows an interesting and successful year's work. Amongst the year's developments are the dispatch of ten nurses to the Municipal Hospital at Shanghai, the establishment of a Cottage Hospital at Port Stanley, in the Falkland Islands, for which the Committee recommended the Nurse Matron, and the appointment of an Assistant Matron at the Seamen's Hospital, Malta.

The total number of nurses at work during the year has been 200, an increase of 33 upon last year. Of these 144 were employed by Government, and 56 as Private Nurses.

The work of the Nursing Committee is no sinecure. It has held 24 special meetings for the purpose of interviewing candidates in the year just ended, in addition to the ordinary interviews at the office, upwards of 330 nurses having been seen in all.

At Venice the work carried on at the Cosmopolitan Hospital, and the number of British sailors requiring its assistance have increased to such an extent that the Local Committee have had to enlarge the building, and have appealed for further funds to defray the expense. The Committee of the Colonial Nursing Association have therefore again renewed the grant made in previous years to this useful institution.

The Scottish Branch, of which the Lady Balfour of Burleigh is President, has done useful work, and records an increase in its subscription list.

Presentation.

On the occasion of the resignation of Miss Paddy from the post of Night Superintendent at the Great Northern Central Hospital, N., she was the recipient of a lovely afternoon tea cloth from the Sisters, a beautiful travelling clock from the residents both past and present, and a handsome gold bracelet from the nurses as a mark of their esteem. She is now taking up the post of Home Sister at the Kingston Infirmary, and carries with her the good wishes of many friends.

On Tuesday, June 23, the "Bill to regulate the qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for their Registration," promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was presented in the House of Lords by the Right Hon. the Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., and read for a first time. It therefore behoves all friends of the Bill to do all in their power to secure support for it before its second reading.

Before the introduction of the Bill into the House of Lords it was withdrawn in the House of Commons where, for the last four years, it has been introduced by Mr. Munro Ferguson, in whose charge it has proved a valuable factor in educating members of the House of Commons as to the need for legislation. The best thanks of nurses are due to Mr. Ferguson for the kind way in which he has forwarded their claims.

The Annual Report of the Medico-Political Committee of the British Medical Association, to be presented to the Annual Representative Meeting at Sheffield, contains the following clauses in relation to the State Registration of Trained Nurses:—

"Pursuant to the decisions of the Representative Meeting, the Committee has continued to support, on occasion, proposals for establishing a State Register of Nurses, and has opposed projects which would have the effect of obstructing State Registration.

"A Bill called the Official Directory of Nurses' Bill having been introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, on behalf of the Central Hospital Council of London, the Council, on the recommendation of the Medico-Political Committee, appointed a deputation to Lord Ampthill, who had given notice of objection to the Bill. The views of the medical profession on the general subject of the State Registration of Nurses and its objection to the Official Directory of Nurses' Bill were duly laid before Lord Ampthill, whose opposition, the Committee is glad to report, was successful.

"Subsequently a request was received through Mr. Tennant, M.P. (formerly Chairman of the Select Committee on the House of Commons on the State Registration of Nurses), for the Association to take part in a deputation from various bodies to the Lord President of the Privy Council, in favour of the State Registration of Nurses. This request was acceded to, and the Lord President has con-

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