

THE
BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,062.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1908.

Vol. XLI.

Editorial.

A ROLL OF HONOUR.

It is generally known that for nearly twenty-one years the movement for the State Registration of Nurses has been in progress. During that time, a gradually increasing number of trained nurses have given more or less steadfast and active support to it. The great majority of these nurses have enrolled themselves as members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. It is the Bill of that Society which has now passed its second reading, and through the Committee of the House of Lords, without a division; so that it may be taken for granted that on both sides of that House a large section of opinion is favourable to the measure. In the forthcoming autumn Session, the Bill will be again considered in Committee, and it is hoped will then receive its third reading in the House of Lords. Whether it will receive the attention of the House of Commons in the brief autumn Session remains to be seen; and in view of the great difficulties of the political situation, it is impossible to feel too sanguine on this point. But there is reason to hope that the Government—which has shown its active interest in the measure, by the careful consideration which it has devoted to the Bill, and the many amendments which it has made in its clauses—may, at least, see its way to take up Registration next year as part of the official programme. We can confidently assert that such a large amount of sympathy and support has been promised to the Bill from every section in the House of Commons, there is no reason why, if the Government will extend the Act to Ireland and undertake the conduct

of the Bill, it should not pass through the House of Commons. In fact, we can now regard it as certain that the Bill for the Registration of Nurses will become law within a very limited period.

The valuable suggestion has been made that, in view of the approaching success of our long campaign, a List should be published of the members who have already joined the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, or who become subscribing members before the date on which the Nurses' Bill receives the Royal assent. This would be, in fact, a Roll of Honour of great historical interest to the Nursing Profession of the future, as showing the names of those who have taken an active part in bringing about the vast professional improvements which must follow the recognition of Nursing by the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland.

We need only add that the names included in that List must be those who have either paid a Life Subscription of five shillings, or who have paid up their Annual Subscriptions of one shilling each year; because there are a few nurses who joined the Society, but took no further interest in it, and did not continue to pay their subscriptions to it. It is obvious that it would be unjust to include such nurses amongst those who have steadfastly borne the heat and burden of the campaign. We earnestly hope that all who desire their names to appear in this historical Roll will join the Society at once, and that the present members will bring this matter to the knowledge of their friends, so that the List of those who were included in the fighting line of the nurses' long campaign may be very large, as in days to come it will, doubtless, be regarded as very honourable.

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