

Ireland to be Reinstated in the Nurses' Registration Bill.

The announcement made by the Earl of Crewe, Leader of the House of Lords, to Miss Ramsden, President of the Irish Nurses' Association, that he has placed on the Notice Paper amendments in favour of the application to Ireland of the Nurses' Registration Bill, will be received with profound satisfaction, not only in Ireland but in Great Britain, where trained nurses know well how unanimous their Irish colleagues are in their earnest desire for legal status, and how strenuously they have worked to secure the reinstatement of Ireland in the Bill since the insertion by the Government on July 21st of the provision, that "the Act shall not extend to Ireland."

In our issue of July 25th, we expressed our belief that the great body of nurses in Ireland had only to show themselves determined to secure legal status in order to be reinstated in the Bill. They had three months in which to effect this, but by prompt action, through their professional Association, and with the help of their leaders in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and elsewhere—whose appreciation of their professional responsibility, and organising ability have proved of signal service at this crisis—the reinstatement of Ireland has been secured in a short four weeks. We print in full the correspondence between the Earl of Crewe (acting for the Lord President of the Council) and the Irish Nurses' Association:—

Privy Council Office, London, S.W.,
12th August, 1908.

MADAM,—Referring to the memorial of yourself and others, addressed to the Earl of Crewe, in favour of the application to Ireland of the Nurses' Registration Bill, now before Parliament, I am directed to state that His Lordship has already placed on the Notice Paper amendments to that effect. In the circumstances, it is presumed that the Association will not deem a deputation necessary.—I am Madam,

Your obedient servant,
A. W. FITZROY.

Miss Ramsden, President, Irish Nurses' Association, Dublin.

Irish Nurses' Association,
86, Lower Leeson Street,
August 17th, 1908.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Crewe,
Whitehall, S.W.

MY LORD,—We are happy to receive your Lordship's intimation that you have placed on the Notice Paper amendments in favour of the application to Ireland of the Nurses' Registration Bill.

We desire to offer to your Lordship our appreciation of such action, and of the concession of equal treatment for Ireland by making the Act the

same for the United Kingdom.

In these circumstances we do not deem it necessary to trouble your Lordship at present with a deputation; but we would venture to request that we might have a copy of the proposed amendments which are to effect this most vital object.—We are, my Lord, your obedient servants,

(Signed).—Lucy Ramsden, Matron, Rotunda Hospital, President Irish Nurses' Association; B. M. Kelly, Matron, Steevens' Hospital; A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C., Matron, Richmond Hospital; L. V. Haughton, Matron, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital; D. L. West, Superintendent, Infirmary, N.D.U.; J. E. Hughes, Matron, Portrane Asylum; A. Butler, Matron, Portobello House; Mary A. J. Hannan, Matron, National Maternity Hospital; M. Huxley, Past President, I.N.A.; Mary Lamont, Superintendent Q.V.J.I.; Catherine Wills, Assistant Superintendent, Q.V.J.I., J. Kildare Treacy, Matron, City of Dublin Nursing Institution, Hon. Sec., Executive Committee I.N.A.

The Irish Nurses' Association have received numerous replies to their letter addressed to Clerks of Unions in county towns, and the secretaries of the Dublin Hospitals and County Infirmaries.

In response to offers of help received, the Association has replied as follows:—

Irish Nurses' Association,
86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin,
August 17th, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—In response to your inquiry as to what steps your Board should take in order to support our efforts with regard to the Nurses' Registration Bill, we beg to offer our sincere thanks for your valuable interest and offer of help in this matter.

We consider that it would materially aid the objects we have in view if you would form a committee from amongst your citizens who are interested in the welfare of Ireland, and of Irish nurses, arrange meetings at once, get representatives from the various professions—Church, Law, and Medicine, as well as Irish Members of Parliament—and pass resolutions in favour of the inclusion of Ireland in this Bill, on terms of equality with Great Britain, and have copies forwarded to the Chief Secretary and to the Earl of Crewe, and also to your own representatives in Parliament.

We desire to apprise you that even if it should be decided now to reinstate Ireland in the Statute, the work of informing the public how seriously their interests, as well as those of Irish nurses, are involved is imperative, in order that, during the passage of the Bill through Parliament, the Irish members shall be enabled to insist that differential treatment shall not be forced upon Ireland by Departmental or Executive interference, and that our sharing the benefits of Registration shall not be postponed.

A general public meeting should be convened by

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)