

Progress of State Registration.

We may say without contradiction that the widespread influence of this Journal is the result of its fair play. Everyone who cares to express an opinion may have a say, so we feel sure our readers will realise we have good reason when we state we are going to suppress, or should we rather say hold over, correspondence on the subject of the vicious attacks made by two members of the Central Hospital Council for London—Sir Henry Burdett in his pseudo nursing paper, and Mr. Sydney Holland in the public press—on the two societies which have alone in England during the past fourteen years worked fearlessly for the organisation of Trained Nursing by Act of Parliament.

That the deepest indignation should have been aroused by the violent invective of the former and the irresponsible misstatements of the latter is quite natural, but now is the time to keep tempers, and with dignity to use all our energy for our Nurses' Registration Bill, so wonderfully advanced under the generous guidance of Lord Amphill, in the House of Lords. Moreover, we may console ourselves with the knowledge that on all sides the legislation we have so keenly at heart, is now receiving support from many influential quarters.

It is an open secret that Sir Henry Burdett does not care a fig whether nurses are registered or not. He has taken power in the past to do it himself, once through the Hospitals Association, again through the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, and yet again through the Directory of Nurses' Bill, a measure well calculated to control the economic condition of nurses. What the twin anti-registration protagonists both fiercely resent is *that trained nurses should have any effective representation on their own Governing Body.*

In this connection it is well to realise that, as the Bill stands, only four out of sixteen members whom it is proposed shall compose the first Nursing Council can claim to be the elect of the nurses themselves, as the Matrons' Council, the State Registration Society, and the Irish Nurses' Association are the only societies named *formed exclusively of nurses.*

The Royal British Nurses' Association is a mixed body of medical men and nurses. Four out of five of the honorary offices are filled by

medical men, who control the routine official business of the Association, and publicly address the nurse members from the altitude of the platform!

The Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses is controlled by an influential Council of lay persons, medical men, and two nurses, the Queen's Nurses being the employees of the Institute.

And the Asylum Workers' Association is also a conjoint body of lay persons, medical men, and male and female mental nurses, the President and Hon. Secretary of which are medical men. None of these associations are, therefore, entirely professional nurses' organisations.

We may console ourselves that the correspondence in the *Times* and *Morning Post* has aroused much interest in State Registration, and from the tone of the letters we have received, even from strangers, there is little doubt the public realise that the work done with singleness of purpose by the nurses' organisations, has been done in the public interest, and that every women's society of repute is prepared to support the organised nurses in obtaining representation on the governing body provided for in the Bill they themselves have promoted.

Yet another thought—through evil report and good report—those of us who have come out and worked for registration and all its entails, in the face of intimidation and personal abuse, have the consolation of knowing whatever happens *that in doing our public duty we have been winning all the time.*

From letters recently received from India, Canada, and Australasia, the deepest interest is being taken in the progress of Lord Amphill's Bill in the Lords by nurses in those dominions, all of whom are anxious that their status shall be legally defined.

THE POWER OF THE PURSE.

We have to thank Miss H. C. Sadlier, R.N.S., for sending a donation of 5s. towards the expenses of the Registration Bill. As the whole secretarial is a labour of love, and the society of which Miss Sadlier is a member gives us office room rent free, shillings go quite a long way, but the expenses of propaganda have been and must continue to be until our Bill is passed exceedingly heavy.

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