

thill. A pleasure and a duty. Let it be our pleasure and duty now at this hour to cooperate by every means in our power to urge upon our legislators the importance of the great social reforms embodied in the Nurses' Registration Bill. It is not merely a nurses' question, nor a woman's question, but one of the utmost importance to the community. Our Bill provides the means through which the great army of trained nurses may qualify themselves as efficient servants of the sick, and realise their individual and professional responsibility to the State. Let every lamp be found alight and burning brightly!

THE SCOTTISH REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Scottish Registration Society, held in Edinburgh on November 4th, a strong resolution in favour of the principle of the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses was passed, but at the same time certain amendments were agreed to, and it was decided that these should be forwarded to the President of the Council as well as the Resolution. (The amendments concerned the first constitution of the Council, Scottish representation, and the fees required from nurses.)

Owing to a number of amendments made in the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Lords, the organised representation suggested for each country, England, Scotland, and Ireland, got somewhat disturbed. For instance, it was taken for granted that persons opposed to registration would not wish to be called upon to carry out the provisions of the Act, so that the Matrons' Council, the only organised society of hospital Matrons, which had consistently for 15 years worked for registration, was allotted three representatives on the Provisional Council provided for in the Bill, the intention being to elect one from each country. In reducing the number of the Council from 19 to 16, the Matrons' Council was given two instead of three, and the Irish Nurses' Association one. Now Scotland finds herself left out, owing to there being no national organisation of either Matrons or Nurses north of the Tweed. We quite sympathise with the wish of Scottish nurses for direct representation, although, unlike the English and Irish nurses, they have not taken any united national part in the now historic struggle for legal status. As individuals the more progressive Scottish nurses are in favour of Registration, and have joined the Society for State Registration. No doubt means will be found to include Scotland before the Bill becomes law. It all proves

how necessary it is that Scottish nurses should realise their professional responsibility, and organise their national association without delay. They are of too sturdy a temperament to wish to reap where others sow.

NO FURTHER EXAM.

We are sometimes asked by Nurses whether, when the Nurses' Registration Bill becomes law, those who apply for registration during the three years' term of grace, will be required to pass an examination either at the time of registration or at the expiration of the above term. Reference to the Nurses' Registration Bill (219 H.L.), obtainable from Wyman and Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., will show that no nurses whose names are entered on the Register during the period of grace will be required to pass a further examination. They are enrolled on the qualifications they already possess.

REGISTRATION AT CHELSEA INFIRMARY.

A large gathering of nurses assembled in the pleasant Nurses' Sitting Room at the Chelsea Infirmary on Thursday in last week, when Mrs. Bedford Fenwick gave an address briefly describing the history of the Registration movement and its present position. Many of the Sisters and Nurses of the Infirmary were present, and they were reinforced by a large contingent from Wandsworth Infirmary, and other hospitals. Miss Barton, who is always at her best at a registration meeting, introduced the lecturer in a few cordial words, and said that she felt when the Nurses' Registration Bill passed the House of Lords that the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses must do something to celebrate the occasion.

Mrs. Fenwick, in her speech, drew an analogy between the movement for the registration of medical practitioners and that for the registration of nurses. She showed how the *Lancet* had fought the battle of medical reform early in the last century in the same way that the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* had been the organ which had fought for the registration of trained nurses; and without the voice which it gave to nurses in the press it would have been impossible to conduct the campaign. She described how the Editor of the *Lancet* had had his house burnt down and fought more than one duel before medical registration was attained. Persecution was, she said, no doubt the unhappy fate of all reformers. She urged all present to show their practical sympathy with the registration movement.

At the conclusion of the address a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the speaker.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)