

of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

Miss Heather-Bigg, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.

Miss Cox-Davies, Matron of the Royal Free Hospital, W.C., and President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

Miss P. Peter, formerly General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, the Superintendents of the Scottish and Irish Branches, and the chief Superintendent in Wales.

Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., late Matron-in-Chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; at present a member of the War Office Advisory Council, Territorial Force Nursing Service.

Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent of School Nurses under the London County Council.

The Presidents of the following important self-governing Societies of Nurses, in addition to those already mentioned:—The Lady Hermione Blackwood, Ulster Branch of the Irish Nurses' Association; Miss Barton, Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss Dwight, Parish of Nottingham Nurses' League; Miss Forrest, Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League; Miss M. E. Jones, General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League; Miss Kelly, Steevens' Hospital, Dublin, Nurses' League; Miss Mollett, Royal South Hants Nurses' League; Miss Pearse, School Nurses' League; Miss Rogers, Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League; Miss J. A. Smith, Kingston Infirmary Nurses' League; and Miss Burr, Hon. Secretary, St. John's House Nurses' League.

The Matrons of a large number of Poor Law Infirmarys to which training schools are attached.

The Matrons of the large majority of the great infectious hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

The Superintendents of large Co-operative Private Nursing Associations in London and the provinces.

The President of the Irish Nurses' Association, Matron of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, a great School of Midwifery.

The Matrons of Hospitals and Infirmarys who are responsible for the training and supervision of nurses, in London and the Metropolitan area in institutions containing over 15,000 beds, and outside London, in those containing over 15,800 beds. At an average of only ten patients yearly to each bed, this means that the Matrons who have already signed this list are responsible every year for the nursing of more than 300,000 patients.

We hope the last paragraph may meet the eye of that imaginative member of the London Hospital Nursing Staff, whose anonymous letter was quoted by Lord Wemyss in the House of Lords on the Third Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill, in which case she will no doubt correct and apologise for her erroneous statements.

Nurses must now do all in their power to instruct members of Parliament on the real principles at issue in their demand for registration.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL AND REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Sir Donald MacAlister, in his Presidential Address to the General Medical Council, which has been holding its eighty-eighth session during the past week, mentioned that the Nurses' Registration Bill contained a reference to the Council on which it behoved it to express an opinion.

We are officially informed that on Friday, November 27th, the Council had this matter under consideration, and decided upon their course of action, to which we shall refer again when the official minutes are available.

REGISTRATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Australasian Nurses' Journal reports the progress of the movement for State Registration of Nurses in New South Wales. An important deputation of doctors and nurses, members of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, was introduced to the Chief Secretary, Mr. W. H. Wood, by Sir James Graham, M.D., M.L.A., on September 17th last. The arguments urged were on exactly the same lines as those pleaded for the past twenty years by registrationists in this country. That trained nurses were a necessary factor in the life of the community, and that they were now asking the Government's assistance in placing an important and highly skilled profession under legal control for the sake of the members of that profession, and out of regard to the public safety and welfare. That nurses in other countries and states already enjoyed such privileges. That when a nurse had gone through a thorough training in a proper hospital for the required number of years, she should be examined by an independent body to test her fitness for her responsible position. That modern surgery could not be carried out successfully unless the surgeon were assisted by trained nurses. That if registration were not done by experts in the right way it would be carried out inefficiently by ignorant persons. That the public should have the means of discriminating between trained and untrained women, and that it had taken a long time to persuade the public that a regular apprenticeship was as necessary for a nurse as for a bootmaker or baker!

Mr. Wood, in reply, fully agreed as to the importance of the subject, on which they desired legislation. He looked upon their request with a degree of sympathy, but apparently failed to realise that trained nurses were only asking for a voluntary system of registration. He promised, however, to take an early opportunity of bringing the views of the deputation before his colleagues in the Cabinet.

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