

Progress of State Registration.

A meeting to consider the application of the Nurses' Registration Bill to Scotland was held in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, on December 10th, to discuss the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Bill. Those present were:—Dr. W. Allan Jamieson, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, in the chair; Dr. Affleck, Edinburgh; Dr. Playfair, Edinburgh; Colonel Warburton, Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Professor Glaister, President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; Dr. Mackintosh, Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow; Dr. Maxtone Thom, Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Dr. Ker, Superintendent of the City Hospital, Edinburgh; Dr. Core, Superintendent of Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow; Dr. Richard, Medical Officer, Govan Parochial Hospital; Dr. Newman, Glasgow; Dr. Johnston, Medical Superintendent of the District Hospitals, Glasgow; Dr. Brownlee, Superintendent of the Belvidere Hospital, Glasgow; Dr. Neil Carmichael, Glasgow; Miss Gill, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; Miss Melrose, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Gregory Smith, Matron, Western Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Cowper, Superintendent of Queen's Jubilee Nurses, Member State Registration Society; Miss Macfarlane, Matron, Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, Member State Registration Society; Miss Merchant, Matron, Eastern District Hospital, Glasgow; Miss Shepherd, Matron, Govan Parochial Hospital, Glasgow; Miss Moseley, Matron, Western District Hospital, Glasgow; Miss Wright, Matron, Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, Member State Registration Society; Miss King, Miss Graham, and Miss Renwick represented private nursing institutions.

As from the published reports of the meeting, it appears that only medical men took part in the discussion, the opinions expressed must be taken to represent those of the members of the medical profession present, and not necessarily those of the nurses.

Dr. Mackintosh showed clearly that he was not in favour of the inclusion of independent nurses on the proposed Registration Council, but his opinion that immediately a Matron ceases to be under control she is incapable of representing her profession on the Nursing Council is one which cannot be substantiated.

In the Bill passed by the House of Lords, the great principle of the direct representation of trained nurses upon the Council, has been conceded, and we have no doubt that the English and Irish nurses who have, through

their organised associations, worked so ardently for this just principle, will not be content unless they have free choice in the selection of the women to represent them on their own Governing Body.

It was decided to appoint a Committee of nine "to consider the Bill in detail, and to frame a scheme suitable for Scotland." We hope that before any scheme is adopted the nurses will associate themselves together so that their views may be expressed as well as those of medical men.

Parliament was on Monday last prorogued, with the usual formalities in both Houses until February 16th, when it again reassembles. After the New Year every registrationist must redouble her efforts, and set to work with the object of securing the passing into law of the Nurses' Registration Act next Session.

WELCOME HELP.

We acknowledge with many thanks the following donations towards the expenses of the Nurses' Registration Bill:—

	£	s.	d.
Miss L. Taylor, Zanzibar	5	0
Miss L. Warriner, R.N.S.	5	0
Miss Davidson, Cullen	2	6

Legal Matters.

The action of Nurse Webb, a nurse on the staff of the Nightingale Nursing Home at Southsea, who, on her own responsibility, administered $\frac{1}{2}$ of a grain of morphia to an infant with the result that the child died a few hours later, cannot be too strongly condemned. No nurse has a right to prescribe drugs, and when she takes upon herself to give a dose of morphia to an infant of a few weeks old, she proves that her rashness is only excelled by her ignorance of the probable effects of the drug. At the inquest which took place Deputy Surgeon-General Comyn, grandfather of the child, in whose house the tragedy occurred, explained that the nurse called him to see the child early one morning, and he found him in a state of collapse. She said she had given him an eighth of a grain of morphia.

Dr. Birkett, who was called in, said the dose of morphia was, roughly speaking, eighty times too much for a child three months old.

Nurse Mary Webb herself gave evidence, and said she considered an eighth of a grain of morphia a small dose. She had on one occasion taken two grains herself.

The Coroner said the conduct of the nurse was reprehensible, and unwarrantable, and by the desire of the jury she was severely censured.

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