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Editorial.

STATE REGISTRATION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Once more nurses are learning the lesson that they must themselves secure the introduction into Parliament of legislation on lines which they approve or this will be undertaken for them by others:

This is what is now happening in New South Wales where the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association has done excellent work in organising the conditions of training of Nurses all over Australia, with the exception of Victoria, where an exactly similar and affiliated Society has proceeded on parallel lines, and which has also established an examination which it is necessary to pass in order to be eligible for membership. As the Hon. Secretary of the Association, Dr. Blackburn, points out in an article in the official organ of the Association, "a system of State Registration has been the goal towards which the A.T.N.A. has been striving since its establishment, but the members have not thought the time was ripe to bring the matter under the notice of the Legislature until the voluntary scheme was satisfactorily working in all the States." We have always regretted that the A.T.N.A. took this line, and have pointed out the inexpediency of delay, for the Association was in a sufficiently strong position to go to the legislature with a Bill of its own, drawn on lines securing the best interests of the public, and the nursing profession, with every hope of success. Now the inevitable has happened, and the good work accomplished by the Association is imperilled by the submission to the Legislative Council by Dr. Mackellar of a Bill for the registration of Nurses and Private Hospitals under the Board of Health instead of under a professional Council. Concerning this Bill the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* says:—

"We must not forget if the Bill as it stands becomes law, and the control of nursing questions is taken entirely out of the hands of the nursing and medical professions now, it will be hopeless to try to get it back again for at least very many years. . . . The only safety for us lies in our pointing out that we have a right to be treated in exactly the same way as the medical and dental professions, and to have a special Board appointed upon which we are properly represented by members of our profession conversant with the needs of modern nursing, and assisted by medical men in active practice. We feel sure that if our members will rouse themselves, and show that they are determined to be fairly treated it will not be difficult to persuade Members of Parliament that the wishes of some thousands of nurses ought to be consulted in the passing of any laws dealing with registration."

Dr. Blackburn states that, as an alternative to Dr. Mackellar's Bill, the members of the A.T.N.A. are practically unanimous in desiring that in connection with State Registration of Trained Nurses a Board should be appointed quite apart from the Board of Health, "having upon it members of the nursing and medical professions nominated by the nursing profession, as well as nominees of the Government, provided that the nominees of the nurses are sufficiently numerous to have a reasonable weight in the voting upon vital questions."

This is a just demand, and we hope that the members of the A.T.N.A. will urge their claim with such insistence that the Government of New South Wales will introduce a Government Measure for the registration of trained nurses, incorporating the views of the members of the A.T.N.A. as to what is right and just for their profession.

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