

## The Mansion House Meeting.

The Mansion House Meeting Sub-Committee met at the Matron's House, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., last week, and we are informed that admission for trained nurses to the meeting on March 15th will be by ticket. Tickets can be obtained by applying to Miss Goodhue, Hon. Secretary, 14, Ashley Gardens, Westminster, S.W. It is hoped the Lady Mayoress will preside, and amongst those who will speak and lay the Territorial Nursing Scheme before the nurses of London are Miss E. S. Haldane, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Amy Hughes, and others.

## Progress of State Registration.

The ballot for precedence in introducing private Members' Bills in the House of Commons excited unusual interest this Session, no fewer than 353 members putting down their names. Amongst this number many good friends of the nurses balloted for the Nurses' Registration Bill, but we had no luck.

That, however, need not dismay us, as this campaign has never relied on "luck" to help it along. The keen desire for the public good, backed up by plenty of energy and tenacity of purpose, has got us thus far, and we have just got to push steadily on.

Mr. Munro-Ferguson will introduce the Nurses' Bill into the Commons this week, exactly as it left the Lords last Session with the expression of Government support. It is not a perfect measure, and requires a few amendments, but on the whole it is a liberal one for the nurses, and incorporates the two great principles they have fought for so long—direct representation of the nurses, on a Central Registration Council; empowered to define a minimum standard of training, and central examinations.

A meeting is to be held of those interested in the registration of nurses in Scotland on Saturday, February 27th, in the Merchants' Hall, George Square, Glasgow, at 3 p.m. The chair will be taken by Lord Inverclyde.

Dr. Mackintosh, Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, has intimated to Mr. Munro-Ferguson that Scotland wishes to have its own Nurses' Registration Bill, and the latter has agreed to have Scotland omitted from the English Bill, by amendment, if Scottish nurses prefer local legislation. The whole question of removing Scottish nurses from the

Nurses' Registration Bill has only been arranged by a small committee of Medical Superintendents and Matrons, and until this serious step has been widely explained to the nurses in Scotland we hope no hasty action will be taken. Such an arrangement would in no way injure English nurses, but decentralisation might be injurious to the best interests of Scottish nurses by arresting development on really progressive lines. Scotland is a small country, with but few large training schools and limited scope for its trained nurses, and following medical legislation we are inclined to consider that Registration is pre-eminently a national matter so that the nurses of the three kingdoms shall work on equal terms. This opinion is supported by that of all Scottish trained nurses working in England with whom we have come in contact since it has been proposed to omit them from the English Bill.

### REGISTRATION IN IRELAND.

At the Annual Meeting of the Leinster branch of the British Medical Association, held recently at the College of Physicians, Dublin, Dr. Craig brought forward the question of the registration of nurses, and moved a resolution to the effect that, while the branch approved of such a system of registration, the Bill should contain a provision to the effect that such registration should give no authority to any nurse to practise medicine, and that the provisions of the Bill should be extended to Ireland.

Sir William Smyly seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Sir William Smyly, a resolution was carried urging that any Bill passed in reference to the question of the registration of nurses should insist, in future, upon at least three years' hospital training in order to qualify a candidate for practice as a registered nurse.

### REGISTRATION IN BELGIUM.

As a natural sequence of the Royal decree providing for the registration of nurses in Belgium, examinations of nurses, prior to their registration, have been instituted under the authority of the State, and in October last these were held in no less than seventeen centres, when some 400 candidates presented themselves. Unless the candidate expresses a preference for a written examination, it is, as a rule, oral, lasting about 45 minutes. Candidates, who fail three times in succession, will not be permitted to present themselves at further examinations. In Brussels 77 and in Ghent 84 nurses were successful in gaining diplomas, and the latter place had the distinction of passing every nurse who entered for the examination.

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