

Progress of State Registration.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., a Conference was held in Committee Room 17, at the House of Commons, convened by Mr. R. C. Ferguson, M.P., between some Members of Parliament interested in the question of the State Registration of Nurses and representatives of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

Owing to a printer's error we regret that the name of Mr. O'Shee, instead of Mr. David Sheehy, was given as backing the Nurses' Registration Bill last week.

On the 3rd inst., Mr. A. Findlay, Member for Lanark, N.E., introduced on behalf of the Royal British Nurses' Association, a Bill to regulate the qualifications and registration of trained nurses.

Mr. Annan Bryce, M.P., Inverness Burghs, has again placed upon the Paper notices of objection to the Nurses' Registration Bills. He considers "character" of more importance than "mere professional" qualifications. We want both, and consider registration is the only way to get them.

A PETITION FROM THE LEICESTER INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

It will doubtless be of interest to our readers to learn that a Petition bearing the influential signatures of 1,860 people has been sent to the House of Commons by the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League in support of the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, which has recently been introduced into the House. The signatories include over 285 registered Medical Practitioners, 325 Matrons, Assistant Matrons, Ward Sisters, and Certificated Nurses. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Members of the Governing Body of the Leicester Infirmary, the Trained Nurses' Institute, and other public bodies in Leicester and elsewhere, Members of Parliament, 6 Deputy-Lieutenants, Officers of H.M. Army and Navy, 7 Mayors, 60 Justices of the Peace, Barristers, Solicitors, Teachers, etc. etc. This is a splendid result of professional organisation, and the Leicester League has our warmest congratulations.

Next week we shall refer to other Petitions organised with devotion by busy nurses, all of which we feel sure both Lord Ampthill and Mr. Ferguson will thoroughly approve.

HOME RULE FOR SCOTTISH TRAINING SCHOOLS.

Interesting developments are evolving on the registration question in Scotland, the *Glasgow*

Herald devoting space to its discussion. In an inspired editorial on 1st March, the time-worn tactics of threats, to which we have become inured on this side the Border, began. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, we are told, will not stand alone in challenging the progress of our Bill if, in our contumacy, it is not subjected to "drastic modification" at the dictation of Dr. Mackintosh's Committee of "representative persons" whose names have not yet been made public. We are not afraid of Lord Balfour of Burleigh or any other lord—or master—and the Glasgow Committee and its organs in the press, would do well to assimilate this fact without delay. It is to be regretted that in the campaign of Home Rule for Scottish Training Schools, facts have not been presented to Scottish nurses with strict veracity. The truth is that as long as it was possible to hope that the question of nurses' registration could be suppressed, the Glasgow schools failed to support the Scottish Registration Committee, located in Edinburgh. Although the Nurses' Registration Bill was in print no word of opposition was presented to Mr. Ferguson or Lord Ampthill. But when it was realised in Glasgow that a masterly inactivity was ineffective, that the public intended to be protected from inefficient and criminal persons posing as nurses, and that organised nurses in England and Ireland had the sympathy both of the public and Parliament in their demand for Registration, private meetings of medical men were held in Glasgow, the Edinburgh committee ignored, Lord Ampthill's Bill seized upon, and when emasculated so as to leave, as at present, absolute power to the Training Schools over the nursing profession in Scotland, it was presented to the nursing world over the Border as a *new measure*—a discourteous bit of plagiarism of which, no doubt, Lord Inverclyde is entirely ignorant.

Let it be understood at once that if Scottish nurses want to be shunted on to a siding by an Act which deprives them of professional power and status it is quite easy for them to be eliminated from the national Nurses' Registration Bill; but also it must be realised by those who are manipulating the Scottish campaign that English nurses decline *most determinedly* to be either misled or intimidated by Dr. Mackintosh's Committee, which is, in fact, antagonistic to the underlying principles of the Nurses' Registration Bill. We organised nurses have long since passed that elemental state of mind, in which we can be induced to sell our birthright for a mess of pottage.

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