

Progress of State Registration.

Every specious misrepresentation is being emphasised by the anti-registration wire-pullers in the quack nursing press to induce nurses to believe that registration has again died a natural death. The innumerable times Sir Henry Burdett has vanquished this cataleptic corpse is now a standing joke in the nursing world at home and abroad. "Registration is dead" is his favourite formula, and Lo and behold! up starts the irrepressible bogey of his imagination, and winks the other eye. No one with an iota of humour can take this pantomime seriously.

The truth is never was "registration" so much alive—even those who have ignored or opposed it for years now recognise the fact that the public is out of patience with their interested and injurious opposition, and that "registration is coming." The key note of their policy now is—how can they emasculate the provisions of the Registration Bill, so that it may be rendered as little efficacious in the interests of the nurses and the public as possible, and this "monstrous regiment of women" still remain an amenable and pulpy mass for the manipulation of the exploiter?

The correspondence on the Nurses' Registration question continues in the *British Medical Journal*. Medical members of the Asylum Workers' Association appear to be agitating themselves unnecessarily about representation, and confusing the action of the R.B.N.A., some ten years ago, with the present position. Every Bill promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has included representation on the Nursing Council of the Asylum Workers' Association, and since the year 1906 of the Medico-Psychological Association. Both the Select Committee of the House of Commons and the Privy Council recommend a limited Council, so that it would be well for mental nurses to persuade the Privy Council that as a special branch of nursing they require more representation, rather than sneer at the societies of hospital Matrons and nurses which have done all the work and also paid the whole cost of bringing Nurses' Registration into the area of practical politics. This is a cheap and unworthy way of letting off steam, and does not commend itself to our sense of justice.

Of course, Mr. Sydney Holland voices the anti-registration party as Chairman of the London Hospital. He again repeats that because "a two years' London Hospital trained nurse

was good enough to be chosen to nurse his Majesty," the authorities "are quite satisfied from experience that our nurses are properly trained to undertake any work in two years." The question is an economic one at the London Hospital. The nurses, if only trained for two years, are bound by contract to work for the hospital for four, and it is in the second two that a very large profit is made on their labour in support of the charity.

Speaking with a nurse recently trained at the London, she informed us that it is calculated that no less than four to five hundred pounds a week is paid by, and earned by, the nursing staff at the London Hospital. First by ladies who are permitted to buy two years' certificates by paying a guinea a week for two years, and then exempted from giving two years' further labour and earnings, and by the private nursing staff, which numbers some 250 members, who do not cost half what they earn. This lady expressed the opinion that it was the fear of losing the huge profits made through the nursing school under the present financial arrangements at the London, which inspired much of the keen opposition to registration at that institution.

Mr. Holland writes referring to the Registration Council, "even if the Council were to decide that they would not admit on to the register any nurse who had not had, say three years' training, that would not affect the London Hospital in the smallest degree, as our nurses would not register." How about the absolute freedom of action of every nurse at the London on the registration question, of which Mr. Holland wrote in reply to Lord Amphilhill's statement in the House of Lords that coercion was not unknown in the hospital world? Surely for a powerful Chairman to say "our nurses would not" means in effect "our nurses shall not." Before us we have documentary evidence that many London Hospital certificated nurses are looking forward to the appointment of a Central Nursing Council, and mean to register as soon as the Bill becomes law. It behoves the public to support their right to do so without injury to their professional prospects.

NEW SCHOOL OF MASSAGE.

A School of Massage and Electrical Treatment is being established at the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, etc., Maida Vale, W., for the instruction of qualified nurses, the first term starting on February 1st next. Examinations will be held and certificates granted to successful candidates. Applications for admission to the School should be addressed to the Secretary of the Hospital.

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