

Progress of State Registration.

A deputation, consisting of Lord Inverclyde, Mr. Cleland, M.P., Dr. Mackintosh, Miss Gill, and Miss Ramsay, Inspector of Queen's Nurses in Scotland, had an interview with Lord Pentland, the Lord Advocate for Scotland, at the Scottish Office in London last week, with reference to the question of legislation for the Registration of Nurses, when it was decided that Mr. Cleland should introduce the Registration of Nurses (Scotland) Bill in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, which was done. We learn that the Bill has been considerably altered. Owing to the fear that if registered without an independent examination they might suffer materially outside their own country, Scottish nurses are beginning to distrust this separatist measure.

We are glad to learn that several eminent medical men in Scotland are supporting the demand of those nurses who are strongly opposed to a separatist policy and who are in favour of the one portal, through an independent examination, to the Nurses' Register.

The Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh have intimated to the Lord President of the Privy Council that having now more fully considered the proposed Bill for the United Kingdom they are of opinion that it should be dissented from, unless very materially modified and amended, and that they approve of the movement for the promotion of a Bill applicable to Scotland only. At the same time the Managers have reaffirmed their former resolution as to the desirability of the State Registration of Nurses.

In answer to the question, "If English and Irish Nurses have a standard examination after the term of grace, and Scottish Nurses have none, should we take lower rank in our profession?" The answer must be "Yes," as to attempt to organise nursing without an accepted standard of examination would be impossible. No standard of training could be enforced, and for all practical purposes registration would be useless, and leave matters in Scotland exactly as they are at present, adding the danger of certifying a nurse as trained and efficient without the power to make her so. The result would be that in a very short time the Scottish standard would not be accepted for the higher positions in hospitals, nor on the best private nursing co-operations outside Scotland. There must be equal standards if there is to be equal promotion amongst the nurses of the United

Kingdom. Scottish nurses will inevitably represent a narrow professional policy, as they will be the first to suffer.

WELCOME HELP.

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

	£	s.	d.
Miss H. Todd ...	1	0	0
Miss L. Smith (Simla) ...	3	0	
Miss E. M. Dickson ...	1	0	

Miss F. L. Jackson Bennett writes from Assiout, Egypt: "We, trained nurses in Egypt, are watching the progress of State Registration with keen interest, and well we know had it not been for the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING* it would have been quite impossible for us to have fought this battle. That you and the ladies who have assisted you may soon see your efforts crowned with success, is the wish of all trained nurses here."

REGISTRATION ABROAD.

Germany is moving on slowly in bringing the imperial act into effect; so far, Alsace and Lorraine, Gotha, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Schwarzburg-Sondershausen have carried out its provisions. The German Nurses' Association has recently sent inquiries to the medical bodies of the different states of the Empire to learn what steps have been taken or are under way for its adoption. The bill is a voluntary measure like all those yet passed.

The *American Journal of Nursing* states this season finds the nurses in eight States in the midst of legislative action. Three of the far western States—Washington, Wyoming, and Oklahoma—are making their first effort for State Registration, and with bills excellently well drawn, containing the vitally essential points of a nurse board of examiners, recommended by the State Association, with a minimum educational requirement of two years in the hospital.

The Washington Bill has passed the House with 92 out of 95 votes, and no opposition is anticipated in the Senate. Opposition invariably comes from those who are running commercial nursing concerns.

At the mid-winter meeting of the Massachusetts State Nurses' Association, Miss Riddle, the President, said that they had grown into the habit of presenting a Bill to the Legislature each year, and in order to carry out the habit the proposed Bill would be discussed. The question in Massachusetts is—Shall the nurses accept the best legislation they can get,

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