

or work along for a Bill of which they approve? Naturally, being conscientious women, they voted for the latter course, they presented a Bill, and withdrew it, as several medical men wished it to recognise insufficient standards of training.

#### PRIVATE HOSPITALS ACT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

An Act has been passed in New South Wales to provide for the regulation and inspection of private hospitals, which is to be known as the "Private Hospitals Act, 1908." No doubt the regulation of such institutions by the State is needed, but it is greatly to be regretted that a Nurses' Registration Act has not first been brought in on behalf of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, which was in a very strong position to promote a Registration Bill. Now that the term "hospital nurse" has been defined by Act of Parliament, we fear it will be difficult for the promoters of a Nurses' Registration Bill to get behind this definition. Further, as *The Australasian Nurses' Journal* says, "it is rather a case of putting the cart before the horse to legislate about what a nurse may do before we have decided what a nurse is."

The term "Hospital Nurse" in the above Act "means a person who holds a certificate from a recognised medical and surgical hospital showing that such person has attended the practice of such hospital for not less than three years, and has shown proficiency in medical and surgical nursing, and has passed an examination approved of by the Board of Health."

The term "Midwifery Nurse" "means a woman who holds a certificate from a recognised maternity hospital showing that she has attended the practice of such hospital for not less than one year, and shown proficiency in midwifery and nursing, and obstetrics."

A Register of hospital nurses and midwifery nurses is to be established for the purposes of the Act, under the Board of Health, such registers to contain the prescribed particulars, and to be kept in the prescribed form.

We fear that the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association will find the passing of an adequate Nurses' Registration Act, providing for the government of the nursing profession in the Colony by a representative professional council, a more difficult matter than they appear to anticipate, now that a Register of Nurses has already been established under a Statutory Authority. This should prove to trained nurses the necessity for taking the initiative in promoting legislation for their registration by the State, or this may be done for them on inadequate lines.

#### Presentation to Miss A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C.

There was a crowded gathering of nurses in the large Dining Hall of the Richmond, Whitworth, and Hardwicke Hospitals, Dublin, last week, when Miss A. M. MacDonnell, R.R.C., who for so many years has held the position of Lady Superintendent, was presented, on her retirement, with a magnificent dressing case, and an illuminated address from past and present nurses trained by her. Amongst those present was Miss MacDonnell's successor, Miss Irene C. Keogh. The chair was taken by Mrs. Curran, the address was presented by Sister Brennan, and Sister Jardine asked Miss MacDonnell's acceptance of the beautiful dressing case.

Miss MacDonnell, who was enthusiastically received, said "It is with a full heart and a sense of unworthiness that I have listened to the kind and flattering terms in which you have referred to myself and my work in connection with these hospitals. If I have been enabled during my twenty-one years of service in this institution to carry out reforms both in the nursing and administration I owe it in a large measure to the love and loyalty with which you aided my efforts, and to your noble desire that these hospitals, so dear to us all, should rank among the best in the nursing world. It has been a source of great pride and gratification to me that the long line of nurses who have been trained here have not only earned for themselves a high reputation, but have added lustre to the institution, which trained and sent them forth to the noblest work which a woman can undertake, the alleviation of human suffering. Some of you have shared the burden and responsibility of the work of these hospitals for a long time, others for a shorter space; but all of you have endeared yourselves to me by your true-hearted devotion to duty, by your high standard of living, by noble qualities of patience and tender pity for patients committed to your charge. The best wish of my heart for you, my dear friends and colleagues, is that you may find life's truest blessing the satisfaction of having been truly helpful to others, and that all happiness may be yours. I thank you heartily for this magnificent gift. Every time I use it it will serve to remind me, if that were necessary, of the kind hearts and faithful comrades, whose love is my richest heritage."

Miss MacDonnell has had a long and honourable nursing career, and served as Superintendent of the Irish Hospital in the South African War, where she gained the distinction of the Royal Red Cross for her services in this connection. It is a satisfaction to her many friends in the nursing world that her recent appointment as Vice-President of the Irish Nurses' Association will still keep her in close touch with the profession of which she is a distinguished member, and we are sure that, in her greater leisure, she will still regard it as both a duty and pleasure to further its interests by all means in her power.

*previous page*

*next page*