

## Progress of State Registration.

The Bill to provide for a Register of Nurses in Scotland, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Cleland on Tuesday, the 30th March, is backed by Mr. Barnes, Mr. Falconer, Sir Thomas Glen-Coats, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Scott Dickson, Captain Murray, Mr. Younger, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Esslemont, and Mr. Gulland. It was down for second reading on Monday last, but was blocked.

This Bill provides that without the test of an independent examination, Scottish nurses shall be qualified to act as Registered Nurses in England and Ireland, and it thus cuts at the root of the single portal to the Nurses' Register, which the promoters of Mr. Munro-Ferguson's Bill consider indispensable and vital to the protection of the public from inefficient nurses. As Dr. Mackintosh's Committee has ignored the right of English and Irish Nurses to be consulted concerning their own affairs, this dangerous and unjust attempt to deprive trained nurses of effective legislation, and hand over the control of the Nursing Profession to lay hospital Committees and their officials should be resisted by every means in their power.

A Petition has been drawn up by the medical men and nurses in Scotland who are in favour of a Central Examination for Nurses (of course, in as many centres as necessary), and a Three Years' term of Training. It will be found on page iii. of cover. We advise every nurse reader of this Journal who has the higher education of nurses and their liberty of conscience at heart, to sign it *now*, and forward it by the first post to Dr. Macewen, 3, Woodside Crescent, Charing Cross, Glasgow. Without an independent Central Examination, as the single portal to the Nurses' Register, we may as well muddle along as we are. *Sign now in self-defence.*

The April number of *The Englishwoman* contains an admirable article by the Hon. Albinia Brodrick on "Safeguarding the Public Health," who points out that "unfortunately for the health of the race, the public mind has been criminally slow to recognise how great a part in the development of the nation is being played by what must at present be described as an army composed of irresponsible and undrilled units." The writer shows that a high degree of proficiency is demanded and obtained of various public servants.

"Yet it is a fact that the great profession of nursing receives no consideration, from the point of view of the exigencies of the public health. It is chiefly dealt with as a side issue, a private and particular matter, either by individuals alone, or by a few individuals in association, such as the Committee of a Hospital, or a Board of Guardians, the majority of whom are little fitted to deal with this intricate subject at all."

"There is but one method by which the public health can be safeguarded as regards nursing. By prompt, thorough, and far reaching organisation of the profession; not as a penal measure, but, in its own interest, and more imperatively in that of the national life and health. National organisation for a national profession. This should include:—

"(1) A uniform curriculum of teaching as a basis, including ethics.

"(2) A central examination, written, oral, and practical, with a fee sufficient to cover expenses. Three years' training obligatory.

"(3) A certificate to those who pass the examination.

"(4) Women Inspectors themselves fully trained nurses, for the nursing departments of all hospitals, public or private, including nursing homes.

"(5) Examinations (central) for all posts of Sister, Matron, or Superintendent of a Hospital or Nursing Home.

"(6) Further special examinations in Fever, Mental, District, School, Health, and Sanitary work, after obtaining a certificate of general knowledge.

"(7) Registration of All Nurses by the State.

"(8) A Central Board to be established for the Nursing Profession for purposes of examination, the granting of certificates, inspection, registration, effective supervision and control, with power to remove from the register for specified offences. Members of the profession to form a majority on the Board.

"(9) A Department of Public Health to include the above Board."

In conclusion, Miss Brodrick says:—"We are prepared to give the public a public guarantee with our sanitary officers, our doctors, our dispensers, our midwives, our civil servants; are we to refuse it to them with our nurses?"

### WELCOME HELP.

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

	£	s.	d.
Miss MacMaster	...	1	1 0
Miss Appleyard, R.N.S.	...	5	0
Miss A. H. Holford, Dunedin		5	0

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