

careful and respectful consideration to the arguments you have laid before me, and I admit they are cogent. I have not heard the other side, but I think they are *prima facie* very cogent arguments indeed, and having regard to the composition of the Deputation, and the authority which it possesses, I can assure you that they will be most carefully and sympathetically considered by me and my colleagues. For the time being you will agree that, in view of the facts which I have stated, we cannot regard this as other than a question which requires very careful and detailed examination in view of all the interests concerned.

The Deputation then withdrew.

PETITIONS HANDED TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY
MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, HON. SECRETARY OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF
TRAINED NURSES.

1. A Petition from the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses containing the names and qualifications of 2,646 trained and certificated nurses, the members of the Society, of whom 265 are Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses.

2. A Petition from the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, signed by 1,860 persons, containing the signatures of 286 Physicians and Surgeons, of 324 Certificated Nurses, 38 Matrons, 6 Deputy-Lieutenants, 60 Justices of the Peace, 150 Clergy, including the Bishops of Glasgow and Nottingham, the Suffragan Bishop of Ripon, and the Hon. and Rev. E. Lyttelton, Head Master of Eton College, 38 Barristers and Solicitors, and many Hospital Governors and persons of social position.

3. A Petition from the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses' League, containing the signatures of 1,253 persons, of whom 555 are medical practitioners and 227 Certificated Sisters and Nurses.

4. A Petition from the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League, containing the signatures of 662 persons, of whom 101 are Medical Practitioners, 14 are Matrons, and 106 Sisters and Nurses, 30 Justices of the Peace, 62 Clergy, including the Bishops of Durham and Ely.

5. A Petition from St. John's House Nurses' League, containing the signatures of 137 Matrons and Nurses, and 48 Medical Practitioners.

6. A Petition from the Chelsea Infirmary Nurses' League, containing the signatures of many Matrons and Nurses of Poor-Law Infirmaries.

7. A copy of Resolutions passed in favour of State Registration by the General Medical Council, 1889; the British Medical Association, 1895, 1904, and 1906; the International Council of Nurses, Buffalo, U.S.A., 1901, and Berlin, 1904; the Matrons' Council, 1900; the Society for State Registration, 1903 and 1909; the Registered Nurses' Society, 1904; by various Nurses' Leagues, the Scottish Registration Committee, the Irish Nurses' Association, the National Union of Women Workers, the Women's Industrial Council, the Scottish Women's Liberal Association, and at several public meetings.

Copies of Petition No. 1 can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

Progress of State Registration.

Hearty congratulations to the legislatures of six States of the American Union which have succeeded in passing Nurses' Registration Bills this Session. Twelve have been engaged in legislation. The fate of six Bills is still undecided. The *American Journal of Nursing* remarks "While those States that have failed have our sympathy, we feel that the season taken as a whole, has been gloriously successful. There are now twenty-two States having laws that define nursing education."

Compare the treatment of trained nurses in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

For *twenty-two* years we have earnestly pleaded for just conditions of education and work, and have got nothing, and are still the sport of the ignorant, the exploiter, and the sweater. The Americans have been working for eight years and have been given legal status in *twenty-two* States. It is high time the autocratic men who govern so many of our London hospitals and dominate nursing education, of which they know so little, saw themselves as others see them. We cannot imagine they would enjoy the spectacle.

To return to enlightened America. The States which have this Session passed Nurses' Registration Bills are Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Texas, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Some of these measures are not all the nurses could desire, but as Miss Dock says, "If some are poor, on account of the mercenary opposition, they affirm the principle, and for the next ten thousand years the nurses of the future can amend and extend them!"

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be held on Saturday, the 29th inst., at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W. Miss Isla Stewart, the President, will take the chair at 4 p.m. Important business will be before the meeting, and it is hoped that every member who can will make a point of being present. The Society has lived through a strenuous and successful year.

WELCOME HELP.

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

	£	s.	d.
Mr. M. C. Walshe, J.P.	...	1	1 0
Miss E. C. McGill	3 0

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