

Association, are now helping the nurses to combine for professional purposes. It was in the way that the two powerful Associations in the United States of America, the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, and the National Associated Alumnae of the United States were founded; which, affiliated in the American Federation of Nurses, form a National Council which has fellowship with the nurses of other countries in the International Council of Nurses. We hope that before very long the International Council may have the pleasure of welcoming to membership the National Council of Nurses of India.

Progress of State Registration.

The chief anti-registration organ, after having week by week for years garbled the whole question—and misinformed its readers without hesitation—in its effort to prevent trained nurses attaining the dignity of legal status, and the sick public rightful protection from every species of quack, now proposes to take a plebiscite of nurses for and against State Registration. Such a plebiscite is as futile as it is impertinent, as presumably thoughtful and educated nurses, who are inspired by a sense of professional responsibility do not read the paper in question. The question of whether efficient nurses shall be registered is no longer entirely a nurses' question. The public have stepped in. The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Registration, and the House of Lords without a division, have agreed that the principle of registration is right. Legislation has to be—the public has as much right to a guarantee of the efficiency and good character of the professional nurse, as it has to that of medical practitioners, chemists, and midwives.

“Nurse's uniform in the dock” has now become of such constant occurrence that we guarantee our legislators shall have such a tabulated list of the crimes of such women, that it will arouse the sense of responsibility of the most complaisant legislator, and convince him of the urgency of our demands. The signatures of persons who are content to support the existing scandalous condition of affairs will not count for much in the balance.

In spite of the wonderful progress made in so many of the American States in the organization of nursing, and the marvellous improvement everywhere acknowledged by disinterested persons coincident with state registra-

tion, even in the States trained nurses have to run the gauntlet of the quack nursing press, and the exploiter. In Pennsylvania, where nurses are still fighting valiantly for State Registration, an M.D., who runs a private hospital, and trains his own nurses therein, has actually, in protesting against registration in the public press, diverged so far from the truth as to state that the House of Commons (England) looked into the matter and reported it was inadvisable! Miss L. L. Dock who is a Pennsylvania woman, at once wrote a polite and historically correct letter to the paper in question. Strange to relate, the refutation of the false statement did not appear! The far-famed freedom of the press appears to be as mythical in the land of the free as it is at home, where in many instances columns of misstatements are permitted to appear from the socially influential anti-registration employer, and truthful refutations from the woman worker excluded. As a correspondent writes alluding to this phase of press “freedom”: “the gentleman probably advertises his hospital in the papers.”

This same correspondent adds:—“There are many like him all over the country; they are popping up now here and there. They are one and all clamouring for the kind of woman on whom they can place their heel; fortunately all social and professional tendencies of importance are opposed to them; never has there been so much call for educated women for all kinds of nursing work, and new lines developing out of nursing; social service and a dozen things.”

That is so all over the world. The people have need of us, and we are going to see that our best is at the disposal of the people.

WELCOME HELP.

We acknowledge with much gratitude the following donations towards the great expenses of the Nurses' Registration Bill:—

	£	s.	d.
Miss Christina Forrest	3	3	0
Miss E. Warrenner	5	0	
Memb., R.N.S.	5	0	
Miss Isabella Nicoll	2	6	

A POPULAR APPOINTMENT.

Nurses who gratefully appreciate the value of the work done by Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., as Chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Registration of Nurses, will learn with pleasure that he has entered the Government as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade.

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