

Irish Nurses' Association.

STATE REGISTRATION.

There was a large and enthusiastic extraordinary general meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, on Friday evening, June 4th, the object being to consider what further steps should be taken immediately regarding the question of State Registration.

Mr. William Field, M.P., who had attended with the deputation which waited lately on the Prime Minister in London, was present. Mr. Field is a warm supporter of the Bill, and has taken the matter up with his usual energy.

Miss Huxley took the chair at 7 o'clock, and briefly introduced the subject. It will be remembered that she also was a member of the deputation and made an able speech.

Mrs. Kildare-Treacy, Hon. Secretary, read the following letter from the Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon, LL.D., another of our distinguished Irish supporters, and who has already taken so much trouble on our behalf:—

Kilrock, Howth, Co. Dublin.

June 3rd.

DEAR MRS. TREACY.—There can be no doubt that, in Ireland, the members of the nursing profession are practically unanimous and earnest in the demand for State Registration, and in this demand they are supported by all the representative Institutions of the Medical and Surgical Professions, as well as by the great majority of the individual members of these professions, and by the local governing authority and the Parliamentary representatives. But in England there appears to be strong, organised, and influential opposition to State Registration, which seems to be acting in the interest of the London Hospitals. I believe that its motive—and certainly its result—is to preserve the profitable monopoly of training which large hospitals possess, and by means of which they practically get three of the best years of every nurse's work, not only for nothing, but on the terms of her paying a large fee for the privilege of working for them as a qualification to become a "hospital trained nurse"—the poorest paid and most arduous work to which a woman can devote herself.

In Ireland we had to fight for our existence, to prevent our exclusion from State Registration—if England got it. The action of the House of Lords has got us over that danger now, and our Irish nurses, if they choose, can get some of the advantages of State Registration through the Local Government Board.

If the English nurses want State Registration they will win it for themselves in England; but I am sure that they may rely on any encouragement and help which is in the power of Irish nurses and their friends to give them.

Sincerely yours,

GERALD FITZGIBBON, Chairman,
City of Dublin Nursing Institution.

RESOLUTIONS.

The first Resolution was proposed by Miss Kelly, Matron, Steevens' Hospital, as follows:

I.

"That Irish Matrons and Nurses desire to record their united conviction, that State Registration has become an urgent necessity for the Nurses of the United Kingdom, in their own interest, and in that of the public."

This was seconded by Miss Keeyes, Matron, National Eye and Ear Hospital, and also supported by Miss Keogh, the recently appointed Matron of the Richmond Hospitals. They all spoke well and to the point.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

II.

The second resolution—

"That copies of the foregoing be forwarded, with a minute of this meeting, to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, and to the Chief Secretary for Ireland."

was proposed by Miss Wills, Assistant Superintendent of the Queen's Jubilee Nurses in Ireland, seconded by Miss Sutton, Matron, St. Vincent's Hospital, and supported by Mr. Field, M.P., and also carried with acclamation.

In the course of Mr. Field's speech, he remarked how struck he was by Miss Huxley's speech at the interview with Mr. Asquith, and characterised it as the best and most practical of all made on that occasion. He also highly complimented Mrs. Kildare Treacy, as Hon. Secretary to the Association, for her able work. He said he had taken this matter up, and was not going to allow it to drop, and would interest every member of Parliament he could about it. He impressed on us the fact that it was not now merely a nursing question, but a great national one. The health of a nation was one of its most valuable assets, and all adjuncts to it should be safeguarded. The people have the right to the very best doctors and the highest trained nurses. Why, said he, should even plumbers be allowed registration, and nurses forbidden it? He spoke of the "frauds" who go about in bonnet and cloak (about all they possess as a nursing qualification) foisting themselves on a credulous public, and receiving the fee of an honest, fully-trained nurse. He concluded by saying we might count on his help in every way he could.

Mrs. Treacy, in thanking Mr. Field for his presence, said she had been struck by the statistics which had been furnished to Mr. Asquith, and the wretched paucity of numbers, both of doctors and institutions, who objected in comparison to those who approve. Why should the majority be denied a measure because a small minority disapprove

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