

Progress of State Registration.

The Nurses' Registration Bill promoted by the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst. The Bill is identical with that so ably piloted through the House of Lords last Session by Lord Ampthill, and which had the full support of the Government, and of the Marquess of Lansdowne, Leader of the Opposition, on the third reading.

The Bill is backed by Sir John Dickson Poynder, Sir George Scott Robertson, Sir Luke White, Mr. W. H. Cowan, Mr. C. D. Rose, Mr. Rolland Rainy, Dr. V. H. Rutherford, Mr. A. Fell, Mr. J. R. Macdonald, Mr. W. Crooks, Mr. Jowett, and Mr. J. J. O'Shee.

We hear that Petitions in support of the Bill are being forwarded to Members of Parliament.

THE PROPOSED NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

We print below the full report of the meeting held in Glasgow on Saturday last, to consider the desirability of a separate Nurses' Registration Bill for Scotland, published in the *Glasgow Herald* of Monday, March 1st.

A meeting of those interested in the Registration of Nurses in Scotland was held in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow, on Saturday afternoon. Lord Inverclyde presided, and there was a crowded attendance. It may be explained that during the last session of Parliament a Bill, having for its object the formation of a Public Register of Nurses, was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Ampthill, and passed a third reading. It was then remitted to the House of Commons, but owing to the pressure of other business had not been reached when the session ended. It is anticipated that it will be introduced during the present session. The Bill proposes that there shall be only one Registration Council for England, Scotland, and Ireland. It is intended that this Council shall meet in London, and that the registrar's office shall be in London. The attention of the Scottish medical and nursing professions having been directed to the terms of the Bill, a meeting was held in December last, and a Committee appointed to consider the question. The Committee have reported that it seemed to them to be very undesirable that the registration, and, as a necessary consequence, the training of Scottish nurses, should be controlled by a Registration Council whose headquarters would be in London. In the scheme of the Bill which had passed the House of Lords, Scotland was most inadequately represented on that Council, and they anticipated that, if the Bill became law, the training, education, and status of Scottish nurses would be adversely affected by the fact that the Council would be alien in interests and sympathy to Scottish nursing. They recommended that Parliament should be solicited to pass a Registration Bill exclusively applicable to Scotland, and they prepared a draft Bill which has

been widely circulated amongst those interested in the matter.

The Chairman expressed appreciation of the extremely representative character of that large meeting, as he believed there were present representatives from almost all parts of Scotland. The meeting had been called in response to a circular issued by a Committee who had taken the trouble to draft a Bill and to circulate it generally over Scotland, and in order to get an expression of opinion regarding the general principles of the Bill, and to decide whether a separate Act for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, was desirable. The Committee, he understood, did not by any means regard the Bill as perfect in every detail. There were certain minor alterations which probably required to be made, but these would in no way affect the principle involved, of having a separate Act for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, and a Council fully representative of all the interests which were likely to be affected by such legislation. Many reasons might be adduced for the introduction of a separate Bill for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland. Some of these had been very clearly put forward in the report which had been issued by the Committee, and after careful perusal of the draft Bill it seemed to him that it would be a retrograde step to hand over to a Council sitting in London the entire control of the training and registration of Scotch nurses. The standard of nursing in the large training schools in Scotland was a very high one, and there seemed no reason why this high standard should be interfered with. In the English Bill it was proposed to charge nurses a fee of £5 5s. —£3 3s. for examination and £2 2s. for registration. But that was not all, for in addition, no matter how excellent a nurse's training might be, or what certificates she might hold from her teaching school, she was compelled to submit to an examination at some centre, conducted possibly by individuals who had no direct interest in keeping Scottish nursing at the high standard which it at present holds, so that the payment of £5 5s. would not be the only outlay which the nurse would be called upon to face. She might require to travel a considerable distance, and remain one or two nights during the course of the examination. The draft Bill which was before the meeting provided for the examinations being conducted on the same lines as at present by the training schools, the Registration Council, of course, reserving such powers of supervision as would enable the Council to secure that an adequate standard of attainment on the part of applicants for registration was assured.

Dr. Mackintosh, Medical Superintendent, Western Infirmary, Glasgow, read various letters of apology for absence. These included one from Lord Pentland, who stated that he would give the recommendation of the Committee in favour of a separate Bill for Scotland full consideration in the event of any facilities being afforded for legislation on the subject during the present session of Parliament. Dr. Mackintosh also gave the result of a plebiscite of nurses, which showed that there had signed in favour of the establishment of a separate Registration Council for Scotland 114 matrons and superintendents of nurses, 57 assistant matrons, 218

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