

The above-said Society has as members nearly all the physicians, directors of the hospitals and asylums, and as most of them are also members of the Bond voor Zickenverpleging (Association for Nursing), we may safely conclude, I think, that the Bond endorses the same opinion about State Registration.

The reasons why that Society thinks that State interference is unnecessary and even undesirable are:—

1. That a State certificate for nursing can only be of relative worth, because it is impossible to exclude from nursing all those who don't possess that certificate.

2. That the test as to the aptitude for nursing can hardly be controlled by the State. At a State examination the theoretical knowledge only can be tested; the practical knowledge, which is by far more important, offers difficulties; and it will be impossible to form an opinion of the character which is such an important feature in nursing.

By the present mode of examination these difficulties are not felt, because the Board is composed of the physicians and matrons, who followed the probationer during her training. They take into consideration not only the issue of the examination but also the years of training.

3. Because the advantages of the present state of affairs would be over-ridden by adding to the Examination Board an expert in nursing as delegate of the Government. This would necessitate the fixing by law of the requirements for the examination, and thereby render any alteration impossible, a fact which is very undesirable for a profession which is still in its growth.

These are the arguments of the Dutch Anti-Registrationists against State Registration. They are not very impressive, and easily refuted. But whilst our opponents were trying to influence the minds of the members of Parliament, and set them against State Registration, we have had a rather great success.

Last autumn one of the members of Parliament (an anti, of course) said that only the nurses asked for State Registration. Neither the public nor the physicians had ever declared themselves in favour. This saying suggested to us the idea of making an inquiry among the physicians, with the purpose of hearing their opinion about State Registration. To each doctor in Holland a copy of the two petitions sent by our Association to the Minister of the Interior, and to the Second Chamber of the House of Parliament, was sent, and a postcard added, on which they had only to put their names against the word "for" or "against" State Registration, with the request to send that postcard back to me.

Seven hundred and fifty-one came back with the word "for" underlined, while only ninety-one were "against" State Registration.

And when I tell you that in all I did send 2,890 pamphlets, you will see that at least one-fourth of the Dutch physicians stand on our side. Is not that a splendid success? We felt very happy about it. Our opponents said, as soon as the pamphlets had reached them, that this inquiry was

worthless, because most physicians are not prepared to answer our question. Of course, that is nonsense. Not only in the periodicals but even in the daily papers the question of State Registration for nurses has been discussed, and besides, all those who declare themselves in favour of State Registration are physicians whose practice lies outside the hospitals and asylums, who are in daily contact with private and district nurses, and who are quite competent to form a judgment about their practical knowledge. They experience daily how insufficient the nurse's practical training is, and they are of our opinion, that State intervention, and that only, can bring about thorough improvements.

In my next letter I will give you some particulars about the training school for nurses which we are going to institute.

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT-HUBRECHT.

Amsterdam.

## Notices.

### THE QUINQUENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NURSES AND THE NURSING EXHIBITION.

#### TICKETS.

*The Quinquennial Meeting.*—July 19th, 10 a.m., Church House, Westminster, S.W. Free tickets admitting to the gallery can be obtained from the Secretary, N.C.N., 431, Oxford Street, London, W. The Congress tickets, 3s., admit to reserved seats.

*The International Congress.*—July 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Church House, S.W., or Caxton Hall, S.W., 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and 2 to 4 p.m. Season tickets, price 3s., can be had from the Secretary, N.C.N., 431, Oxford Street, London, W. These tickets admit to the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses, Church House, S.W., on July 19th, at 10 a.m., to all Congress Sessions, the Nursing Exhibition, and Guest Rooms. Admission to single Sessions and Exhibition, 1s.

*The Nursing Exhibition.*—Caxton Hall, S.W., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets, price 6d., to be obtained from the Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London. On and after July 19th the above tickets will be procurable only at the Bureau, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.

#### HOTELS AND PENSIONS.

The Headquarters during the Congress will be the St. Ermin's Hotel, St. James's Park, Westminster, S.W. Single bedrooms, bath, lights, and attendance, 6s. per night. Breakfast, 1s. 6d., 2s., and 3s. Luncheon, 3s. Dinner, 5s.

Cheaper hotels and apartments can be procured through Mrs. Glane, Anglo-Scandinavian Travelers' Bureau, 47, Great Portland Street, London, W., to whom application should be made at once.

#### OUR PUZZLE COMPETITION.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page xii.

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