

The State Board of Examiners is composed of five nurses. Ten nurses are selected by the State Nurses' Association, and five of these are appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The Inspector is a nurse appointed by the Commissioner from the eligible list under the Civil Service rules. The Advisory Council consists of four nurses and one physician appointed by the Commissioner. To consummate the appointments the approval of the Regents is required.

The Advisory Council assists materially in the development of the work by formulating courses of study, preparing systems of keeping records, and being ever ready to give due consideration and pass judgment on all matters of importance.

In the minds of those in closest touch with the work there is not a shadow of a doubt in regard to the efficacy of the system as applied to nurse schools; good results are evident, and from now on will be put in shape to be definitely stated.

Progress of State Registration.

On October 8th next, the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will meet to decide upon active action to be taken preparatory to the meeting of Parliament in 1910. We are glad to know that the neglect of the interests of trained nurses, and therefore of the sick, in this country, by the legislators, compared with the consideration bestowed upon these arduous workers in other countries and our colonies, has aroused a keen sense of injustice in the minds of thoughtful Matrons and nurses in England, Ireland, and Scotland. The truth is that for years certificated nurses have been pleading for an Act of Parliament providing a means whereby they shall receive efficient professional education, and a means whereby they can be distinguished from inefficiently trained women—women of immoral character, and criminals. It is high time to cease pleading, and make a determined demand for justice and reform. Let every nurse worth her salt therefore take the first step by becoming a member of the Society for State Registration of Nurses. Forms of application will be found on page iii. of cover, and can be procured from the Secretary, 481, Oxford Street, and the subscription is only 1s. annually. We want lots of new members before the 8th inst.

WELCOME HELP.

We gratefully acknowledge a donation of £1 1s. from Miss Huxley (her exhibition prize) towards the funds of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses.

The Craze for Nursing Homes.

"Mrs. Harris" makes an onslaught in this month's *National Review*, on what she terms "The Craze for Nursing Homes," and in this connection she writes very disrespectfully of the medical faculty, in trying to trace out the origin of the fashion of people leaving clean, comfortable homes with large, airy rooms, and their adoring families, to immure themselves in poky rooms in a far less agreeable quarter of London than their own, or their country houses in summer for "rest cures" in dusty, noisy London. This seems such a singular thing to do that "Mrs. Harris" attempts to solve the riddle. She says "To begin with, the suggestion invariably comes from the doctors. For many reasons they favour the nursing home. They like to have several patients in one house. They like the absolute command that they have over the nurses, and they simply like the red tape, and the institutional flavour which most 'homes' manage to impart to their treatment. In fact, I should say the *Mandarin* doctor was much as his political brother . . . There is, unhappily, a considerable number of doctors and surgeons believed to be financially interested in these nursing homes, which are all of them private speculations, and they have an additional reason for endeavouring to persuade their patients that homes are preferable to private houses . . . He talks learnedly and technically, overwhelming the anxious mother or husband with all the flow of a pundit's jargon, and, if he or she demurs, he will call in any number of other pundits to back him up. Many a relative in charge of a sick person is persuaded or browbeaten into submission." Terrible pictures are drawn of the difficulties of private nursing. "You will have to have two nurses, and they will cause you endless trouble, and will not make M. nearly as comfortable as she would be in Miss —'s home." . . . Doctors undertake very grave responsibility when at such a serious time as illness brings, they put pressure upon people to break their natural ties. For, supposing that the 'homes' were all that they are painted by medical men, is there nothing in the constant and thoughtful care, the intelligence of the heart, which only affection can give? What stranger can rack ingenious help out of her anxious thoughts like a mother with a sick child? What can so well soothe and help us when we are in pain as the devotion of those we love?"

Of nursing homes themselves, "Mrs. Harris" has nothing good to say. "Stories of dirt and incompetence are so common that it

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