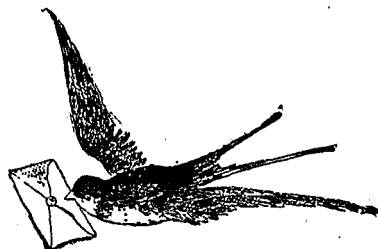


## Our Foreign Letter.

### STATE REGISTRATION IN HOLLAND.



Three months have gone by since our London meeting, all have returned to their ordinary occupations, but there is a

difference, the spirit of the Congress is still among us, and the remembrance of the hopeful, encouraging words, of the splendid speeches, of the great good-fellowship, have made us full of hope for the future, more enduring for coming difficulties, more eager to take part in the contest for obtaining State Registration, more conscious of the wish to raise our profession. Soon after coming home, we heard some good news. The Roman Catholic Association for Nursing was about to send in a petition to the second Chamber of our House of Parliament in order to support the petitions which we presented in 1907. The R. C. Association wants the Government—

1. To allow only registered nurses to practise nursing as a profession;

2. To fix by law, that in the hospitals at least one-third of the staff must be registered nurses;

3. To institute an examination for admission to the training schools. Everybody, who has had primary instruction up to her twelfth year may be admitted to this examination, on the plea that the nurses in the hospitals have no need of an extensive knowledge, there being always a Sister and a doctor at their call.

Articles 1 and 2 are very important, and will do much towards improving conditions, but I feel sure they will be much contested, especially the last one, so many hospitals having only a few certificated nurses on their staff. As to the third article, on that point we are of a different opinion. We think an examination of admission to the training schools a very good thing, but one of the qualifications should be that the candidates have had, what we call secondary instruction, which keeps the girls in the school till their sixteenth or seventeenth year. It seems strange that those, who have the management of training schools still do not realise that perhaps the largest part of the nurses' work lies outside the hospitals, and that their obligations towards the probationers go farther than a training, which only fits them for hospital work. And even for that kind of work primary instruction is not sufficient. It seems to me such a wrong policy to adapt the training to the school instruction of the probationers, instead of bringing pupils up to the standard wanted for a good training by means of a thorough preliminary training.

True to the French saying: "*Frappez, frappez toujours,*" but also with the intention of refuting some of the arguments laid down in a petition, which the society of doctor-directors of hospitals and asylums presented last spring to the Second

Chamber of the House of Parliament, the Executive of our Association again sent in a petition to the Members of Parliament, in which was clearly demonstrated, that those doctors-directors while pretending that State Registration is neither necessary nor desired, had not consulted the nurses, the persons most concerned in this matter. We opposed to that statement the opinion of a large number of doctors, whose work lies outside the hospitals, and who declared themselves openly in favour of State Registration. We concluded our petition by repeating the requests for State Registration made in the petitions of 1907, this being the only way to obtain uniformity in training. Thus, while getting new friends and supporters on one side, we have on the other side always to be on the look-out for some trick of the anti-registrationists. I am not sorry for it, strife is often a good thing, it makes the nurses more alert to the problems of their profession, it shakes them out of their apathy. The examinations of the nurses in Holland are for the most part simply theoretical; little attention is given to the practical work. A few years ago our Association instituted examinations in general nursing largely devoted to practical work. This month the first examinations for maternity nurses, instituted by our Association, will take place. The candidates will have to work for a fortnight as district nurses. They will be given the care of two or three lying-in women and babies, and have to do their work under the supervision of a trained nurse and a doctor.

We believe that in this way a fair insight into the nurses' practical knowledge can be obtained, and a precedent established for the State examinations of the future.

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT-HUBRECHT,  
Secretary of *Nosokomos*, Dutch  
Nurses' Association.

### FIRE TESTS WITH FLANNELETTE.

The British Fire Prevention Committee are shortly issuing an illustrated report on the subject of Fire Tests with Flannelette, and considering the number of fatalities reported, more especially amongst children, from the use of flannelette for clothing purposes, the question is one of great importance. The popularity of flannelette is due, no doubt, to its durability, warmth, cheapness, and appearance, all very desirable qualities, but qualities which must, nevertheless, be ignored if its inflammable character cannot be overcome. The Committee last week conducted a series of fire-tests with flannelette, the ordinary variety, fine flannelette, non-inflammable flannelette, and union and wool materials being under test in the form of garments on dummies representing children. The materials had been washed repeatedly at three different laundries, and the experiments went to show that there is a non-flam treatment available of practical value, by which flannelette can be made effectively flame proof.

In this connection it was recorded that the nurse whose sad death we report in another column was wearing a flannelette nightdress. We desire to emphasise the importance in every instance of securing a non-inflammable variety of this material.

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