

## Progress of State Registration.

### IN SCOTLAND.

Official intolerance of public opinion breathes through every page of the pamphlet just issued by the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, and we can only regard it as a deliberate attempt to misinform Scottish nurses on the question of their professional status.

Careful study of this pamphlet precludes the possibility of hope that the promoters of the Scottish Registration Bill have thrown off the anti-registration prejudices which inspired their preliminary deliberations in Glasgow and forces us to the conclusion that the Bill is a second "Subjection of Nurses" Bill, very little less dangerous to the nursing profession in Scotland than the Official Directory of Nurses Bill introduced into the House of Lords last Session on behalf of the anti-registration Central Hospital Council for London.

The threat with which the pamphlet concludes that unless Registrationists abandon the fundamental principles for which they have been fighting for twenty years, the promoters of the Scottish Bill will resist in every constitutional way the adoption of Lord Amphill's Bill, throws down the gauntlet to the nursing profession in the United Kingdom which in the public interest as well as in that of the Scottish nurses, we are sure it will pick up without hesitation.

On the question of a central examination it must be remembered that every one of the thirty Bills for the Registration of Trained Nurses now in force in different parts of the world incorporates this fundamental principle, as does the Bill at present before the legislature in New South Wales. Therefore, if the Scottish Association adheres in its Bill to the obsolete and ineffective method of Registration upon the recognition of unstandardised hospital certificates, it will be the Scottish Bill against the deliberate judgment of medical and nursing opinion, and of the legislatures which have inspired and passed the 30 Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in all parts of the world.

We intend to deal fully with this reprehensible document, and its inaccurate statements concerning Lord Amphill's Bill, next week. In the meantime Scottish nurses will do well not to sign the postcard issued with the pamphlet, thereby giving their support to a Bill calculated to depreciate their professional status, and deprive them of valuable privileges granted to their colleagues wherever Registration Acts are in force.

### NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

We heartily congratulate the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association on the progress of the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in New South Wales. The *Australasian Nurses' Journal* of September 15th, just to hand, announces that the Bill, introduced by Dr. Mackellar, has passed through all its stages in the Legislative Council, and has been read a first time in the Legislative Assembly, so that by this time it has probably become law. We offer our congratulations to the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, because as a professional body they have not only been able to influence legislation and to secure the passage of a Bill which they approve, but they have also established for Australasia the precedent of a central examination, which has been incorporated in the Bill. Thus the Hon. Dr. Mackellar, in moving its second reading, referred to the good work done by the Association, and said it had instituted an examination of a very high character, which all women who desired to become members were obliged to pass, and it was intended that the Board which might be appointed under the Bill, should carry out this work, and relieve the Association of the duty. It was clear that a matter of such importance should not be left to private individuals, but that the nursing profession should have State recognition.

The Bill provides that any person who has attained the age of 21 years, is of sound health, and has passed the prescribed examination, may be registered on satisfying the Board as to good character, and previous training, as prescribed under the Act.

Within a year from the commencement of the Act nurses may be registered on holding a certificate from any hospital recognised by the Board. In the case of a person claiming to be registered as a hospital nurse the candidate must have had at least three years' training, and if she wishes to be registered as an obstetric nurse, must have gone through a course of at least six months' training. The Bill follows closely on the lines of the Nurses' Registration Bill in this country, with the exception that the nurses have no *direct* representation on their Registration Board, which is to consist of ten persons nominated by the Governor, four of them being past or present Matrons of hospitals.

The Bill follows the example set by the General Medical Council in this country in providing for the payment of expenses connected with examination and registration, of the salaries of officers, and the general expenses of the Board.

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