

Registration of Nurses.

THE PAMPHLET OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN SCOTLAND.

(Concluded from page 398.)

THE "SINGLE PORTAL SYSTEM."

The pamphlet states that "the picturesque phrase 'single portal' has been adopted by the promoters of Lord Ampthill's Bill to describe, and, in a sense, to justify, their proposal that every nurse, before being registered, shall be required to pass an examination held at the instance of the Registration Council. This examination is the single portal by which alone a nurse may enter the privileged arena secured by registration. Central examination is the keystone of the English fabric." It is evident, therefore, that the promoters of the Scottish Bill view this Central Examination with disfavour, although it is true that the Delegates of the Scottish Association at a Conference between the promoters of the three Bills agreed to accede to the single portal system of admission to the register, provided that the principle of administrative decentralisation was not necessarily excluded. They, however, withdrew from a subsequent conference, and it remains to be seen, should the Scottish Bill be re-introduced, whether the single portal system is incorporated.

THE PRESENT POSITION.

The pamphlet issued by the Association for the Promotion of Registration of Nurses in Scotland concludes with the statement that "without a Scottish Registration Committee composed in the manner indicated in the Scottish Bill registration in Scotland would be futile, if not positively mischievous, and we regard two guineas as the maximum fee permissible for registration." (So do we.—Ed.)

Scotland must decide what is the best form of legislation for that country, but, if it adopts a Bill with a lower standard than that agreed upon by England and Ireland, it must not expect reciprocity of recognition in those countries. The pamphlet declares that the Scottish Bill "accepts for Registration purposes the certificates of recognised training schools, and admits fever nurses . . . to a special register." As we have already pointed out, the principle of accepting hospital certificates is contrary to the procedure adopted in the 30 Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses now in force in various parts of the world in Europe, America, Australia, and Africa. The promoters of Lord Ampthill's Bill, in the interests of fever nurses, are conscientiously opposed to the recognition of fever specialists, as such, claiming for them their right to general experience, and believing the right method to be

that of the Fever Nurses' Association in England, which desires the notification of the special fever experience, when possessed, against the name of the nurse in the general register.

Lord Ampthill's Bill does not, as the pamphlet wrongly alleges, "exclude fever nurses from registration," it specially provides that the requisite training for nurses may be received *in hospitals*, thereby making it possible to evolve a scheme of co-operative training, for the benefit of the hospitals, and the more comprehensive training of nurses.

THE THREAT.

The pamphlet concludes by claiming—(1) A Scottish Registration Committee composed in the manner indicated in the Scottish Bill—which provides for the continued supremacy of hospital officials over the nursing profession at large—and (2) that two guineas is the maximum fee permissible for registration.

We may point out (1) That the Scottish Bill provides for a Council, not a Committee. We have always been in favour of Standing Committees in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, for executive purposes, and to carry out the decisions of the General Nursing Council, but it must be remembered that Lord Wolverhampton, as Lord President of the Council, opposed a proposition of this nature in the House of Lords.

(2) We have already pointed out that £2 2s. is the registration fee defined in Lord Ampthill's Bill.

The threat with which the pamphlet concludes that if the above points are not conceded the Scottish Association will resist, in every constitutional way, the adoption of Lord Ampthill's Bill, is quite unjustifiable. The British Bill has been framed by those who are guided by the experience of 20 years' work for the registration cause, and they certainly will not be deterred from fulfilling their trust to the nursing profession by the threats of those who, until quite recently, were opposed to the State Registration of Trained Nurses.

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

Miss Haughton, Matron of Guy's Hospital, who has been a member of the Matrons' Council for some years has accepted the cordial invitation of her colleagues to a reception to be held next month to welcome her into the metropolitan nursing world. As Miss Isla Stewart has from its foundation been the President of the Matrons' Council, the reception will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and many members are looking forward with pleasure to making the acquaintance of Miss Haughton, whose interest in all that concerns the happiness of nurses and the progress of good nursing is well known.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)