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**Editorial.**

**PROGRESS OF REGISTRATION DURING THE  
PRESENT PARLIAMENT.**

The Prorogation of Parliament, with the official announcement that it will be dissolved on January 8th, 1910, brings to a close an administration of which nurses hoped much when it was returned to power in 1905.

When we look back over the four years during which the present Government has held office, nurses may take courage from the extraordinary progress made towards the attainment of a Nurses' Registration Bill. The unanimous verdict of a Select Committee of the House of Commons—appointed in 1904 by the Right. Hon. A. J. Balfour during the last Unionist administration, and re-appointed in 1905—in favour of the principle of the Registration of Nurses by the State, placed the question on an entirely new plane.

That the importance of the verdict of the Select Committee was appreciated by the opponents of Registration was evident from the haste with which they abandoned their *non possumus* attitude, and stated that they "recognised as legitimate the desire that there should be a record of the experience of nurses available," and adopted an "alternative policy"—a policy later incorporated in "The Official Directory of Nurses Bill," better known as "The Subjection of Nurses Bill," which, secretly drafted, without consultation with any of the organised societies of nurses, was keenly contested by them, and which, when introduced into the House of Lords, was, through the good offices of Lord Amphill, rejected on its second reading by a large majority.

The peril thus averted was followed by another step forward, for Lord Amphill immediately introduced into the Upper

House the Nurses' Registration Bill, which, amended by the Privy Council, passed its third reading, with the support of the Government, on December 10th, 1908.

Again increased activity followed this victory for Registration, and Scotland, which so far had been to a large extent inert, was roused to action. The Registration of Nurses (Scotland) Bill was hastily drafted, on the initiative of medical administrators of hospitals, and is in essence another Directory Bill, providing for the registration of certificates of unknown value. The immediate result of this has been the formation for the first time of a Scottish Nurses' Association, which is working to obtain a State Registration of Nurses by a single portal system for the United Kingdom. Further, the question of State Registration of Nurses has assumed sufficient importance for the Prime Minister to devote time to receiving a deputation in its support; when after distinguished members of Parliament and of the medical and nursing professions had urged this reform, Mr. Asquith admitted that the arguments laid before him were very cogent, and assured the deputation that they would be carefully and sympathetically considered by himself and his colleagues.

Lastly, a standing Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, composed of delegates of societies in favour of the movement, with the object of deciding upon and supporting one Bill is now in process of formation, and Lord Amphill, with the courageous chivalry which has so endeared him to the nursing profession throughout the country, has accepted nomination to the chair.

When, therefore, the new Parliament comes into office the Registration of Nurses movement will be in an immeasurably stronger position than in 1905.

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