some means by which the fruits could be made known to the public. It would be a benefit all round. The handy woman who could take "a bit of nursing" as well as a bit of sewing or housework has had her day—and her dead. The community owes so much to her successor—the trained nurse—that everything which can be done to safeguard her profession should be supported by it."

Space will not permit of further quotations, but we have to thank the editors of dozens of papers and journals from all over the Kingdom for their support and approval of the Pageant—and incidentally of State Registration of Nurses. We hope that these publications will continue to educate the public, and also our legislators, on the importance in attaining a high standard of national health, of efficient standards of nursing education and discipline, and that they will help trained nurses in their just demand for reform.

The photographs from which our pictures of Miss Carmichael and the four Nursing Acts are reproduced are by the Sports and General Illustrations Co., 45, Essex Street, Strand, and the General Press Photo Co., 2, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E. C., respectively.

The Success of the Pageant.

At a meeting of the Pageant Committee, held at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Saturday, the 25th ult., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair, a very satisfactory report was presented.

Warm votes of thanks were passed to Miss Mollett, the writer of the Masque; to Miss Irene Fergusson, Miss Cecilia Cecil, Miss Winifred Bridger, and to all those who by a most generous expenditure of time and money combined to make this most interesting occasion such a splendid and undeniable success.

Gratification was expressed at the attendance of Lord Ampthill, Chairman of the Central Registration Committee, and Lady Ampthill, and his expression of opinion that the Pageant was "a most classical and beautiful spectacle" will be learnt with pleasure by members of the National Council of Trained Nurses, whose combined effort carried the function through with so much éclat.

On all sides hopes have been expressed that the Pageant will be repeated, and the managers of the Festival of Empire and Imperial Exhibition, to be held at the Crystal Palace this summer, under the patronage of his Majesty's Government, have invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the President of the National Council of Nurses, to put up a proposition whereby trained nurses would be able to take a prominent part in the Festival.

The Committee of the Pageant and Masque felt that it would not be quite suitable for such an occasion, although, in conjunction with the representation of other branches of woman's work, nursing might be included in the Festival of Empire.

The Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Aurses in Scotland.

ANNUAL MEETING.

There was a large attendance of members at the annual meeting of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, which was held last Friday afternoon in the Medical Theatre of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Representatives were present from various parts of Scotland, and Lord Inverceyde, President of the Association, was in the chair.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman, according to the Scotsman, said the Association was representative of the nursing profession in Scotland, and it had exercised a considerable influence in assisting nurses to secure a Registration Bill applicable to the United Kingdom, safeguarding the interests of trained nurses. The various societies interested in the question of registration of nurses were now formed into a Joint Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Ampthill, and these societies unanimously agreed to support one Bill instead of each promoting a separate Bill. His Lordship expressed the Association's gratitude to Lord Ampthill for presiding at the various meetings, and by his tact and firmness bringing all parties together, by which an agreement as to one Bill was arrived at. The Bill as drafted would, he hoped, be presented to the House of Commons without any great delay, but with Government business pressing to deal with, such as himself, it might be some little time before it was read, because by all present indications private Bills had little chance of consideration. It was a Bill of compromise all round, and there had been no difficulty in finding members of Parliament representing every shade of politics to back it. Since the last annual meeting a conference and a committee meeting of the Joint Committee to which he had already referred have been held in London for the consideration of details in connection with certain clauses which dealt with fever nurses. Scottish Bill formerly promoted by that Association a special register was provided for fever nurses, but Lord Ampthill made it perfectly clear that there were certain details which must be left to the Council and could not be inserted in the Bill, and it was felt that the Council named in the Bill was sufficiently representative of all interests in the United Kingdom to deal with the matter.

Dr. D. J. Mackintosh, honorary secretary of the Association, submitted the treasurer's and secretary's reports. He said the draft Bill did not make provision for a separate register for fever nurses, but no principle had been sacrificed by the Association, who, however, felt in view of the consensus of opinion at the conferences that they must loyally support the Bill. The Bill might not be regarded as perfect, but any alteration which would in any way tend to lower the general standard of nursing should be strenuously opposed in

previous page next page