

"To the State the registration of trained nurses means much, for by it the sick public are protected from the inefficiently trained, and therefore often dangerous, nurse."

"The thanks of the whole nursing profession are due to Dr. Mackellar, who has fathered this Bill, not selfishly, but with the best interests and welfare of the trained nurses at heart."

The deputation from the New South Wales Council of the Association which waited upon the Minister for Public Instruction in the New South Wales Government, to ask his interest in the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses, was introduced by Mr. David Fell, M.L.A., consisted of Miss Kendal Davies, Miss Gould, Miss Newill, Mrs. Ashburton Thompson, Miss Sanders, Dr. Dansey, Dr. Sinclair Gillies, Dr. Blackburn, Dr. Davidson, and Dr. Binney.

Mr. Fell, in introducing the deputation to the Minister, Mr. Beeby, said that the measure was intended to protect the sick public from nurses who were inefficiently trained, and whose ignorance might mean the difference between life and death. The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, which covered all the States of the Commonwealth except Victoria, had done much during the last twelve years not only to raise the standard of training but to establish a uniform and recognised standard for the whole of Australia. There were more than 3,000 nurses in the Association, of whom more than 1,800 were resident in New South Wales, and its standard was the recognised one for trained nurses and hospital matrons. The Association now asked that Government should take over the task of registration, and give a legal standing to nurses, such as was given to the medical profession. This was desired not only in the interests of the nurses, but in the interests of the sick.

Dr. Sinclair Gillies, Dr. Dansey, Dr. Blackburn, and Miss Gould, Matron of the Sydney Hospital, also spoke to the same effect.

Mr. Beeby said he was so interested in the matter that he hoped to interest all his colleagues so much that the Bill would be made a Government one, but if he failed to do that he had promised Dr. Mackellar that he would personally place it before Parliament. He thought, however, that he would have no difficulty in making the matter a Cabinet one. He thoroughly agreed with the provisions for the future high standard of registration, but the question of vested interests would have to be considered.

Mr. Fell thanked the Minister for his sympathetic hearing.

We congratulate our Australasian colleagues and we wish their Registration Act safely inscribed on the Statute Book. Such legislation is very helpful to the progress of our cause at home.

Time was when Britain led the way in all humanitarian progress, and it is sad evidence of degeneration that the welfare of its sick, and efficiency of its nurses, have been so long at the mercy of the greedy professional philanthropist and his political puppets.

### The Asylum Workers' Association.

As we go to press Sir William Collins, F.R.C.S., D.L., is presiding at the annual meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association, at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, W., which has now 5,276 members, an increase of 701 on last year. The annual report shows that the receipts for the year were £411, the largest amount on record, but the expenditure was also unusually large, and in order to secure a credit balance at the end of the year it was necessary to levy a charge on the Homes of Rest Fund for the expenses of management, a practice which, for the last two or three years, has been in abeyance. The most considerable expenditure has been in the production and distribution of *Asylum News*, the net cost of which amounted to nearly £250. Dr. James Nicoll has again gratuitously edited the paper, a task of no mean magnitude, and recurring monthly throughout the year.

In regard to the working of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, it is stated that "with further experience of the working of the Act it may be desirable to endeavour to obtain amendments of such clauses as are shown to be obscure or defective in their application. There can, however, be no doubt that the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act has secured advantages for asylum workers which for years they have been denied, and which must tend to improve the service of the insane."

The experience of ten years has shown that some modification in the medal regulations originally adopted is desirable, and the amended regulations provide that in future all candidates must have been five years members of the Association, and must have had at least 25 years' service. The adjudication of gold and silver medals respectively is to be left to the judgment of the Committee after consideration of the certificates of service and of the nature of the posts held.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)