

## OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

### REGISTRATION IN CANADA.

On November 9th, Miss Ard-Mackenzie, Superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada, gave a most interesting lecture on "State Registration of Nurses," at the Nurses' Home of the Vancouver General Hospital, B.C., which was attended by a large number of nurses and others interested in the question. Having been appointed Convener of a Committee, to deal with this important question, on behalf of the Canadian Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses, Miss Ard-Mackenzie is taking the opportunity afforded by her annual visit of inspection from the Atlantic to the Pacific, to lecture at the various associations of graduate nurses throughout the Dominion of Canada. The plan of action is masterly and logical in the extreme. The individual associations in each province are advised to join forces, and are then invited to send up two representatives to the general meeting, to be held in May, when each provincial association can present its own proposed bill for registration, with any suggestions that may seem advisable; out of all this a model and comprehensive bill will be drawn up, after due discussion, which each association will bring up, as far as possible, at the same time, before the provincial legislative assemblies, thus showing that the bill voices the demand of the trained nursing profession as a whole. It is hoped that such a unanimous appeal will be met with the success that it should command in a country where the pioneer women, the mothers of the cities, are rated at a higher valuation than in many countries of an older civilisation.

In the course of her lecture, Miss Ard-Mackenzie referred to the advantages of registration in providing a hall-mark for nurses, so that the sins of omission and commission of the untrained might not be visited on them (we have enough of our own to be responsible for!); and protection for the general public and the medical profession. At present the training of the nurses depended upon the standard and individual capacity and character of the superintendent of the hospital, and hence a general standard could not be maintained, nor could undesirables be kept track of and disenrolled.

When a professional status is given, better educated women will be attracted, for the newer branches of nursing, such as social service and school and factory nursing, called for women of more varied capacity than the ordinary ministrations to the sick. Amongst the difficulties to be met are:—

1. The natural English conservatism, which, though good in preventing bad mistakes being made, often retarded progress, and caused a suspicion of new measures, just because they were new.

2. Several training schools had started by giving a poor training, practical only, with no definite instruction, often caused by the hospitals boards

being too economical, and evading the duty of having paid workers.

3. Misunderstandings. Imagining that registration would create a huge labour union, with an eight-hour day and a regulated wage; and that by this means nurses from large training schools would bar out those from smaller, less-known hospitals. A false idea was prevalent, that untrained nursing would be prevented. "A good, honest girl won't be able to nurse her poor old father and mother!" It is only the nursing under false colours that will be interfered with.

4. The indifference of nurses themselves. Many argue thus: "I'm not going to gain anything by registration; why should I worry about another exam? It's not worth while for me, because I don't intend to nurse for long, and I can get all I want from the doctors I know."

5. The doctors: and yet the best are anxious for nurses to have some legislative measure. As one expressed it lately, in Western phrase: "I have had some great lemons handed to me." When patients ask, as they often do, for "some of those dreadful stories about your patients, nurse, dear," turn their attention to the question of registration, and of the risks they might have run if you had not been a R. N." Influence should also be brought to bear on the press, and encouragement given to all those reporters who give a true account of nurses' meetings, and do not content themselves with a headline, "Nurses criticise the attitude of the hospital committee," referring to some unimportant remark, some side-issue, and ignoring the admirable address or interesting paper that would have given valuable instruction, if reported.

Miss Ard-Mackenzie considers that the Bill should settle the authority, by putting it under the Educational Department of the Province; and she hoped that before long there would be a chair of nursing in every Canadian University. The terms of admission, the duties of the examiner, and the power to transfer from one province to another, should all be clearly stated in the Bill.

With such a strong and able Convener, it seems highly probable that a Dominion Registration Bill, worthy of this young but lusty daughter of the Empire, will soon be placed on the Statute-book of Canada.

M. A. ELLISON.

### INTRINSIC BUSINESS.

The Winter Number of *Advertising*, 101, Fleet Street, London, E.C. (price 6d. net), is a notable issue. It gives a practical insight into the selling campaigns of European, Canadian, and American business houses, and is full of profitable suggestions for manufacturers and tradesmen who wish to promote good business. Among many strong articles are those dealing with the Cash on Delivery System, "The Science of Business Building," "Sandow Cocoa Manifesto," and the advertising of Wincarnis. In this last article a comprehensive list is given, among which favourable mention is made of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

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