

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
THE NURSING RECORD

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No. 1,247

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1912.

Vol. XLVIII.

## EDITORIAL.

### STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN QUEENSLAND.

The trained nurses of Queensland are to be congratulated that it is the pioneer State of the Commonwealth of Australia to grant legal status to its nurses. The brief fact is announced in the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, just to hand, in a telegram from Dr. McLean, the Hon. Secretary of the A.T.N.A., which states:—"The Health Amendment Act of 1911 is now in force; it includes State Registration of Nurses; will forward full particulars later." But the statement, though brief, is momentous, for it means no less to the sick public than that they have, now, under State authority, a means of discriminating between the trained and untrained, or partially trained, nurses; and to the trained nurses it means that their invaluable services to the community have received recognition from their Government; that henceforth there will be a strongly defined line of demarcation between those who have satisfied the tests imposed by authority—and are therefore accepted as professional women, upon whose skill the public can rely with confidence—and the women who have not submitted themselves to the same tests, and whose services, though they may be regarded as useful to the community, must be recognised as those of the amateur rather than the professional worker.

The value of an organization of nurses to watch and influence legislation is demonstrated in the case of the Queensland Act, for it is reported that it fulfils most of the conditions asked for by the Australasian Trained Nurses Association. It is important when legislation is proposed for any section of workers that an expert

body should watch it on their behalf; and, in the case of nurses, it is specially so, as their work is of so technical a character, and their special needs so unique, that only they themselves are able to appreciate, and voice, points affecting their welfare which are of the utmost importance.

While congratulating the nurses of Queensland on their professional enfranchisement, we have to remember that in the United Kingdom where the movement for State Registration of Trained Nurses was first advocated, nurses have still no legal status. The movement has spread to the four quarters of the globe, proving that it voices a universal need. At the Antipodes, in our own Colonies, in America, in Africa, the right to recognition is accorded to our colleagues. The legislation for which nurses have been asking, working, and towards the promotion of which they have been subscribing for the last quarter of a century, is now long overdue; and it behoves every nurse who desires to protect the sick from incompetent nursing, and to safeguard the honour of her profession, to work definitely for this measure of justice, to explain to the public why registration is necessary, *i.e.*, because they have at present no guarantee that the nurses they employ are trained for the most responsible duties which they undertake, and because there is no central governing body to regulate the standards, and enforce discipline amongst the 50,000 or more trained nurses in the United Kingdom.

In working unselfishly for the public good nurses will find that they are ensuring their own best interests, for the profession will gain immeasurably in usefulness and dignity when the fungus-like growth flourishing on, and sapping, its vitality is excised.

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