

## PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

In response to the invitation of the Executive Committee the following ladies and gentlemen have accepted positions as Vice-Presidents of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, their acceptances being couched in the kindest terms:—The Right Hon. the Lord Ampthill, G.C.I.E., G.C.S.I.; the Right Hon. R. C. Munro Ferguson, P.C.; Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P.; Mr. William Field, M.P.; Dr. Saleeby, F.R.S.Ed.; Lady Truscott; Miss J. Alexander, Matron and Lady Superintendent, Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley, President, and Miss E. A. Stevenson, Hon. Secretary, Scottish Society of Trained Nurses.

The Committee hope that members of the above Society will keep well in mind the Annual Meeting, which is to be held in May, so that widespread interest may be evinced in the demand for legislation. The President is well aware of the monotony of supporting a cause for a quarter of a century, both by active work and cash, and the indignation aroused by the cruel exploitation of nurses' earnings, whilst depreciating their splendid work, by the average anti-registrationist. Men who make money out of women's work, especially such huge sums as are quietly absorbed by the Committee of the London Hospital, whilst paying very high salaries to the chief hospital officials who carry out their indefensible system of sweating, are determined to keep trained nurses disorganized—without State protection—poor, and therefore helpless—and hesitate at no lobbying amongst Government officials to maintain their financial supremacy. We have pointed out many times that had not "trained nursing" been a marketable commodity, the opposition to the State Registration of Nurses would have been a negligible quantity. We are out to wrench economic independence for the most dependent industrial class of women workers in the world—and such fights are not concluded in kid gloves. Hence the necessity for plain speaking.

Mrs. Walter Spencer has again most kindly invited those attending the Annual Meeting to tea at 2, Portland Place, W.

The financial year of the State Registration Society ends on April 30th, and the Hon. Secretary will be pleased to receive the shilling subscriptions from all those members who have not sent them to date.

## STATE REGISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is always a relief to turn to the American nursing world, where women's work for the community is justly valued. The *American Journal of Nursing* reports that:—

Legislation is now in progress in four States. The New Jersey nurses have carried their Bill again into the legislature, and are to make a vigorous effort to secure a statute that shall compare favourably with the best that has been secured in any State. They have not been daunted by the vigorous opposition to their efforts of last year, but again are demanding a Board composed of nurses.

The Rhode Island nurses are to make another effort to secure the passage of a law. They are asking for a Board of Examiners composed of three nurses and two doctors.

Louisiana expects to introduce a Bill at the next Legislature, which convenes in May. As it is unconstitutional for women to serve as State officials, such as members of Boards are, the nurses are anticipating a serious contest in order to win.

The Massachusetts nurses are amending their Bill to include the appointment of an inspector of training schools. At the meeting in Springfield the appointment was made of an educational committee to work in co-operation with the Board of Examiners and to formulate a working syllabus as a guide to both the schools and the examiners. This we consider a very progressive step, and a measure which will tend to keep the State association and the examiners in very close touch.

The fifteenth Annual Meeting of the American Nurses' Association will be held at Chicago, opening on June 5th. There will be a special session on the evening of that day on State Registration, under the auspices of the Superintendents' Society and the American Nurses' Association. Let us hope the States of New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Louisiana will have carried their Bills through and be added to the thirty States which have already enforced enlightened nursing legislation, and shown their appreciation of this invaluable branch of women's work.

We are glad to know that Miss M. Heather-Bigg, Matron of Charing Cross Hospital, is sufficiently recovered from her serious illness to go away for a change. There are many in her wide circle of friends who will unite with us in hoping for her speedy recovery.

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