

STATE REGISTRATION AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Munro Ferguson kindly arranged a meeting in the House of Commons on Thursday, the 2nd inst., between members of Parliament and a deputation from the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—with the aim of personally interesting members in the Nurses' Registration Bill and pushing forward legislation already too long delayed.

The following composed the deputation:—The Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss L. V. Haughton, Miss Beatrice Cutler, Miss Mollett, Miss Barton, Miss H. L. Pearse, Miss Huxley, and Miss M. Breay.

Mr. Ferguson, who was in the chair, named the deputation and invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to address the meeting.

Mrs. Fenwick gave a *résumé* of the efforts of trained nurses, during the past twenty-five years, to obtain nursing organization and reform through a system of registration—touching on the support and opposition to the movement by the medical profession, nurses' organizations, and the public. She referred to the educational and economic aspects of the question—the report in favour of registration by Mr. Tennant's Committee in 1905, and the fact that Lord Ampthill had carried a Bill through the House of Lords in 1908 without a division at any stage.

The advice given by the Prime Minister to a deputation in 1909—to co-operate—had been carried out, all the organized societies of medical men and nurses in the United Kingdom in favour of State registration having formed by affiliation the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, under the chairmanship of Lord Ampthill—a Committee which, by delegation, represented upwards of 30,000 professional persons.

Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that 37 Bills for the Registration of Nurses were already in force in various parts of the world, including several of our own dominions—that in Germany, where education was appreciated, registration by Act of Parliament commenced in 1906.

She presumed that it was the lack of legal status in the nursing profession which had discriminated so adversely against it under the National Insurance Act, and was no doubt the reason why trained nurses had been excluded from direct representation on the Advisory Committees by the Commissioners.

Mrs. Fenwick pleaded for the united personal interest and support of members of Parliament

within the House, so that, through their influence, this important question for the benefit of the community and the nursing profession might receive the attention of the House at an early date.

Miss Mollett also spoke.

The Members present expressed themselves earnestly in favour of legislation—one saying he regretted that he had blocked the Nurses' Bill in former sessions.

Dr. A. W. Chapple, who had been in practice for 24 years in New Zealand, and a member of Parliament in the Dominion, spoke with the force of unique experience of the question. He said so many persons were perfunctorily trained that the public must be protected—he was amazed that a reform of the kind had been so long delayed in England—in New Zealand the Nurses Act had improved education, eliminated the imposter, and had raised the self-respect of the nurses. The hospitals which trained nurses vied with one another as to which should give the best education, and no medical man in New Zealand would go back to former conditions.

The Members present offered some wise, practical advice and their hearty co-operation—and it was arranged by those present to have this important question actively considered—the unanimous opinion being that it affected the welfare of the community more urgently than was realised. The deputation were much gratified with their sympathetic reception, and are greatly indebted to Mr. Ferguson for his consistent support of the interests of trained nurses.

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The Midland Matrons' Association have invited Miss Mollett to speak at Birmingham on the National Insurance Act as it affects nurses, and this she has consented to do on the 30th of this month.

Miss Mollett has also kindly offered to leave her charming rural retreat for a few weeks and come to London, so that she may forward the organization of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society for the benefit of her fellow-workers. When on the spot it is hoped to arrange meetings to instruct those nurses, to whom it would be helpful, on the clauses of this intricate Act. Matrons and others wishing to get up meetings might communicate with Miss Mollett, Hon. Secretary, Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society at the office (*pro tem.*), 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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