

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEAGUES IN CANADA.

STATE REGISTRATION AT LAST.

The Provincial Legislature of Ontario, which may be considered the most consolidated Province in the Dominion of Canada, has just passed a Hospital Act which provides for the Registration of Nurses. A thousand congratulations to the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario, and its able President, Miss Bella Crosby, which has done so much to push State Legislation forward.

The clause in the Act which provides for Nurses' Registration will be read with interest: "Training Schools for Nurses may be conducted at hospitals receiving aid under this Act, and when such regulations in relation thereto as may be prescribed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council have been observed, Graduate Nurses of such training schools may be entitled to registration in a register kept for that purpose under the direction of the Provincial Secretary, and a person so registered may be designated a Registered Nurse." At a recent meeting of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario, a Committee was appointed to confer with the Provincial Secretary in regard to "such regulations."

The current number of the *Canadian Nurse* says editorially on State Registration of Nurses:—

That a step in advance along this line has been made in Canada will be welcome news to every graduate nurse. The Hospital Bill, which has just been passed by the Provincial Legislature of Ontario, contains a section which provides for the registration of nurses. The regulations have yet to be arranged, and these will be such, we hope, that every graduate nurse in the Province will be proud to have her name in the register.

That this measure is most opportune is evidenced by the fact that correspondence schools and so-called schools of nursing, where women may become nurses in a few months and only devote a few hours a week to the acquirement of the necessary knowledge, are in our midst and doing much harm in diverting many who might become probationers in accredited hospitals and eventually be good nurses, to this short cut to knowledge.

Registration makes it possible to differentiate between the properly qualified graduate nurse and the woman who has had only a partial training or none at all. This will protect the sick from imposition and safeguard the honour of the profession.

The nurses in every Province in the Dominion are working strenuously, unitedly, to secure registration. Success is bound to follow such

whole-souled effort and State Registration will soon be established in every Province. It will not then be difficult to evolve a system of reciprocity, so that registration in one Province will qualify the nurse to practise anywhere in Canada.

At this moment of triumph do not let us forget to offer our heartfelt congratulations to the devoted pioneers of nursing organization in Canada, whose untiring labours laid the foundations of this happy consummation, coupled with the name of Miss M. A. Snively, late Lady Superintendent for a quarter of a century of the General Hospital, Toronto, who is now a guest in this country. We know with what deep satisfaction she has learnt of the passing of this new Act in Ontario, which means the ultimate organization of the profession by the State from the Atlantic to the Pacific, throughout the magnificent Dominion of which she is so distinguished a daughter. We congratulate the Superintendents of the Canadian Nursing Schools that, owing largely to their disinterested courage, nursing in Canada is to receive due recognition from the State.

And what of our sorry condition in the Mother Country? Why have we had to work, and slave, and plead, and pay for a whole quarter of a century for our reasonable demand that our place in the body politic should be justly organized? Ah, that is a pitiful story, the sordid keynote of which we will not strike to-day in this happy hour of victory. For is not the well-being of nursing in Canada as dear to us as it is at home? We recognise no distinction. As the Dominion Minister of Finance said in his fine speech on Saturday at Ottawa, on the position of Canada in the Empire: "Distance is fast becoming annihilated. Halifax is nearer to London than to Vancouver. . . . The situation of Canada is in the centre of the Empire"—that being so, let us realise that every step forward made by our nurses overseas is a step forward for us. The dull, dominating one-sex Government now so rampant and so demoralising, under which the conscientious intelligence of women in this country frets and fumes, must, urged by a sense of self-preservation if for no higher motive, give way before long. Our duty is to *go on*, and let us see to it that we "step lively."

Our first step will be to celebrate the passing of the first Act providing for State Registration of Nurses in Canada by offering a congratulatory dinner in London to Miss M. A. Snively towards the end of June.

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