

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

We hope members of the Society for State Registration will make every effort to attend the Annual Meeting on Friday, 7th inst., at 4 p.m., to be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. Dr. Chapple, M.P., who has kindly consented to speak, will do so, we feel sure, in a most sympathetic and instructive manner. All members present at the meeting will be welcomed at its close by Mrs. Walter Spencer to tea at 2, Portland Place, W.

The following Resolutions will be brought before the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses:—

RESOLUTIONS.

Proposed by Miss M. Heather Bigg, Matron, Charing Cross Hospital; seconded by Miss L. V. Haughton, Matron, Guy's Hospital.

"That the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses notes with regret that the Government have not yet granted facilities for the discussion of the Nurses' Registration Bill, now for the ninth year before the House of Commons, and would most earnestly plead that effect should be given, at the earliest possible date, to the unanimous recommendation of the Select Committee on Registration of Nurses (1905), 'that it is desirable that a Register of Nurses should be kept by a Central Body appointed by the State.'

"This Society begs to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Nurses' Registration Bill is now supported by the following medical and nursing societies, representing a united membership of 30,000 registered medical practitioners and trained nurses, resident in every quarter of the United Kingdom:—The British Medical Association, the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Royal British Nurses' Association, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Fever Nurses' Association, the Scottish Nurses' Association, the Association for the Promotion of Registration of Nurses in Scotland, and the Irish Nurses' Association.

"Further, that the opposition to the organisation of trained nursing by the State emanates from a few hospital governors and officials, and from the medical and nursing staffs under their control, and not from any organised associations of either medical practitioners or nurses.

"Further, that forty-two Acts have already been passed for the Statutory registration of trained nurses in various parts of the world, *i.e.*, in the South African States of Cape Colony, Natal, and the Transvaal; in New Zealand; in Queensland, in the Commonwealth of Australia;

in the Province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada; in thirty-four of the United States of America; in the German Empire; and in Belgium, and that it is imperatively necessary for the welfare of the sick in this country, and for the trained nurses who serve them, that a minimum standard of nursing education shall, at an early date, be enforced by Act of Parliament, so as to enable these indispensable workers to give a guarantee of efficiency to the public, and to avail themselves of a system of reciprocity, in the exercise of their profession, in Dominions beyond the Seas."

Proposed by Miss H. L. Pearse, Superintendent, L.C.C. School Nurses; seconded by Mrs. Shuter, representative League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

"That the cordial congratulations of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses be offered to the Nurses' Associations in the British Dominions of Queensland and Ontario and, in the United States of America, in the States of Delaware, South Carolina, and Rhode Island, on the enactment of State Registration Laws."

Proposed by Miss E. B. Kingsford; seconded by Miss Beatrice Kent.

"The Members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in General Meeting assembled, protest against the exclusion of the Trained Nurses' Organisations from direct representation on the Advisory Committees under the National Insurance Act, and consider this exclusion the more unjust as every other class of women, both employers and workers, whose interests are affected by the operation of the Act, have been accorded this privilege by the Insurance Commissioners, through their professional and social Associations, or Trades Unions.

"This meeting begs respectfully to bring this grievance to the personal knowledge of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the hope that he will at once direct that it shall be removed."

Invitations are being sent out for June 21st by Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson to about forty matrons and nurses who have taken an active part in the movement for the State Registration of Trained Nurses to meet Members of Parliament and others whom it is desired to interest in the Nurses' Registration Bill. Several matrons have been asked to make short speeches, taking up various points of interest from the professional and social point of view. The fact that Registration Acts are now in force in so many British Dominions, and that in India the National Association of Matrons and Nurses are pushing forward their demand for legal status, is bringing home the fact to our legislators that action on this question has been far too long delayed.

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