

REGISTRATION AND RECIPROCITY.

There are not wanting signs that before long our great Dominions—Australasia, South Africa, New Zealand, and Canada—will demand from home reciprocity of Registration for nurses, and it will no doubt be the outside pressure of these free people which will compel our reactionary legislators at home to grant both citizenship and legal status to trained nurses. We have been reminded of this demand upon various occasions recently in conversing with matrons from overseas Dominions on their way to the Congress at Cologne, all of whom complain of the inferior nurses who emigrate in search of work, and who expect, upon the production of untested certificates of training, to be immediately included in the registered class of nurse abroad. Colonial nurses are beginning to realise how unfair is this system and to protest against it.

In this connection *The Lady*, July 11th, has a most enlightening article on "English Nurses and Canada," signed Lally Bernard. The writer criticises a statement which recently appeared in that paper "that doctors simply will not employ English nurses if they can get Canadians." "My own experience," she writes, "of hospitals and illness in British Columbia—and it has, unhappily, been an extensive one—is that there is a fair proportion of women born in the United Kingdom as compared with Canadian-born probationers and nurses. Canadians are usually preferred in surgical cases, as their training includes the dressing of such cases, which in this country is generally the work of the hospital doctors or the students. This may give some colour to the statement. But as far as I can ascertain—and I have looked into the question with some interest—the real difficulty is that so many women arrive in Western Canada without letters of introduction of any sort, and are apparently so unused to the general mode of life in this half-developed part of the Empire that doctors are inclined to give a preference to Canadian nurses, who, naturally, are more adaptable and ready to 'fit into' Canadian households."

REGISTRATION LONG DESIRED.

"When the long-desired registration of nurses is brought about, the difficulties which now beset the English hospital nurse in Canada will be greatly alleviated. There have been many cases where so-called 'trained nurses' came out to Canada, and in consequence of their obvious lack of knowledge and their extremely vague credentials have brought discredit upon the profession. In British Columbia there is a

steady agitation to procure registration, and until there is a definite organisation in England which will prevent misappropriation of nursing certificates and allow rapid means of identification, British nurses must be at a great disadvantage. But I would like to testify that where a trained English nurse is good, she is not only appreciated by doctors and hospital authorities and patients, but by the Canadian nurses. . . . Registration is a crying need both here and in Canada, and the sooner it is brought about the better it will be for both patients and nurses within the British Empire."

During the past fortnight State Registration has been briskly discussed in the "Woman's Platform" of the *Standard* and in the *Glasgow Herald*, and we feel sure Miss Breay's lucid contributions to it will be very useful to the public. Of course, Mr. Holland, protagonist in chief of "anti's," trotted out his time-worn and very threadbare arguments against a principle which has been accepted by nurse educationalists all over the world where high standards of women's work and nursing are extant. The reason why we are denied legal status in this country is because *men hold in contempt the work we are doing in aid of the community and for the sick*. Every day we read of their eulogistic speeches concerning the "skilled" work of the semi-trained, and every day our trained "skill" is utilised throughout the hospital world, by hospital governors and Government Departments. But ask for a *quid pro quo*, and what is the reply? A confession of supreme ignorance upon the part of our Ministers concerning the insistent demands of trained nurses concerning their own affairs. Trained nurses have no votes; as a factor in practical politics they do not exist. This is the fact of the case in a nutshell!

NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

On July 11th a garden party was held at Aubrey House, Kensington, by invitation of Miss Alexander, when about 80 members of the Nurses' Social Union met in the lovely old garden and afterwards watched the old English folk dances, which were performed on the lawn and gave much pleasure.

On July 6th three carriages met a number of London nurses at Richmond Station and took them for a drive through the Park. After tea at Miss Murray's house a Committee was formed and a Secretary appointed for the Richmond Branch. Another South London Branch is in process of formation.

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