

REGISTRATION IN BOMBAY.

AN OPEN LETTER.

DEAR MADAM,—Since April, 1911, Registration of Nurses under an Association of the Bombay Presidency, presided over by the Surgeon-General, recognised by Government, has been in force; and no nurse is recognised except by passing the examination of its Board, the nurse being automatically "Registered."

Nurses already trained are allowed Registration under certain regulations; as, if trained and certificated after three years in any of the four recognised training schools, or if from these four schools but before the three years' course was compulsory, or from any other hospital in the land, on presentation of diploma and undergoing an examination by the Board; or holders of British or American Certificates of recognised schools; and for registering as an "obstetric nurse," midwifery qualification also.

I have fought shy of receiving from India the registration of my certificates, which I consider superior to anything India can offer, except, perhaps, in midwifery, when denied Registration in England; but finally other considerations gained the day, and, forced by my own native land to submit my qualifications for approval in one of her own conquered territories, to a Board composed of British and the conquered races, I am, after over 15 years' fighting and spending, and an early member of the State Registration Society, able to write after my name "R.N."! in *India*, and not, as my certificates and my birthright entitle me to, in Great Britain.

Here we are personally teaching and training our staff of probationers, and annually turning a number out as "R.N.s," and denied any recognition ourselves unless obtained in one of our dependencies!

The position would be ludicrous were it not so intensely galling in its utter injustice. It is yet one more instance of a Briton being worse off than those he has conquered.

Imagine British doctors having to submit to Indian registration along with those who have passed the infinitely inferior tests of the country because they could not obtain it in their own land! A Bill would be passed through both Houses in less than a week! But *we* may fight, and pay, and grow bitter, it seems, for another quarter of a century.

The British Government finds it advisable to register its Indian trained nurses, but can find no time to do justice to the British born and trained, who have taught their Indian sisters all they are able to assimilate of the art.

But, dear Editor, this is not a safe subject to pursue farther (there are thousands of us who are becoming "unsafe"); and therefore, with my fervent wishes for 1913 in all that concerns the welfare of our mighty profession and its true advancement,

I am, yours sincerely,

AN INDIAN R.N. .

THE DUBLIN CONFERENCE.

The Conference Committee in Dublin have decided that the mornings and afternoons of two days, the 4th and 5th of June, will be devoted to the Conference Sessions, and that Friday, the 6th, will be profitably taken up with a delightful excursion, probably to Glendalough, to which a most lovely motor drive can be enjoyed. The Dinner will be held on the evening of Thursday, the 5th.

The programme will include the discussion under Nursing Education of (1) Preliminary Education of Probationers; (2) Reciprocal Hospital Training; (3) Post Graduate Teaching for Trained Nurses. The Nursing of White Plague (tuberculosis) also of the Black Plague (venereal disease), and The Appeal of the Insane to the Nursing Profession, will all be discussed on the first day of the Conference.

On the second day, under the heading of the State Registration of Nurses, (1) The Nurses' Registration Bill—Its Educational and Economic Aspects; (2) Legal Status, and How to Build Up the Profession of Nursing for the Benefit of the Public, and The Law as it affects Nurses will be presented in the morning. In the afternoon The Legal Status of the Midwife will be dealt with in two papers (1) An Efficient Standard of Training for the Midwife; and (2) A Just Midwives' Act for Ireland will arouse much interest. Speakers are being selected and invited, and the Conference Committee are well forward with the preliminary organisation of the Conference.

NURSES' SOCIAL UNION.

Miss Kirby will deliver a lecture on "The Mental Deficiency Bill," at 84, Warwick Avenue, Maida Vale, on Thursday, February 27th at 3.15.

Professor Walker Hall will deliver two lectures on "The Serum Treatment of Disease," illustrated, to the members of the N.S.U., on February 27th and March 20th, at the Pathological Department, Bristol University, at 3.30 p.m. Non-members admitted price 6d. to the lecture and tea. Information from Miss Douglas, 66, North View, Westbury Park, Bristol.

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