

### THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

Within a week Parliament has been prorogued, and a new Session opened, so strenuous are the times we live in, and the Nurses' Registration Bill will again be introduced into the House of Commons at an early date by the Right Honourable R. C. Munro-Ferguson, M.P. It will be backed by members of all parties in the House, and as the Prime Minister has promised that its claims shall receive consideration, we hope every registrationist in the country will do her part in pushing forward such claims with the utmost persistency. The nursing profession is sinking in public estimation every day, as so many undesirables exploit it for a living, and the interested, or stupid opposition to nursing organisation by State authority in England, is now widely resented by the intelligent general public, who suffer from the lack of efficiency and discipline of many women in its ranks.

### SCOTTISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

A very full and representative meeting was held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children, Miss Gill, President of the Association, in the chair.

Miss Gill, in her opening remarks, spoke of the work of the Association during the year, and called attention to the satisfactory increase in the membership. The Association, on inauguration three years ago, numbered 88, and now is starting its fourth year with 120 members. The office-bearers for 1913 were elected, and also seven new members. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £10 14s. 2d.

Papers on "Should Nurses accept Presents from Patients?" were read by Miss Torrance and Miss Davidson, and a general discussion followed, the feeling of the meeting being against the practice. The date and place of next meeting were fixed for May 31st at Stirling District Asylum, Larbert, and it was decided to collect statistics as to the remuneration of nurses, with a view to a discussion on the subject.

Votes of thanks to the President for presiding; Miss Morrison, Matron of the hospital, for her kind hospitality; Miss Torrance and Miss Davidson for their papers, concluded the meeting, after which tea was served, and the members were given an opportunity to visit the hospital wards.

#### OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1913.

*President:* Miss Gill, R.R.C., Lady Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.

*Vice-Presidents:* Miss Melrose, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Gregory Smith, Matron, Western Infirmary, Glasgow; Miss Thomas, Matron, City Hospital, Edinburgh; Miss Gordon, Matron, Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

*Hon. Treasurer:* Miss Wise, Lady Superintendent, Craighouse, Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss Graham, Matron, Scottish Association of Trained Nurses, 15, Alva Street, Edinburgh.

*Members of Council:* Miss Marchant, Matron, Eastern District Hospital, Glasgow; Miss Glendinning, Matron, Infirmary, Falkirk; Miss Berwick, Superintendent, Q.V.J.N., Higginbotham Home, Glasgow; Miss Frater, City Hospital, Aberdeen.

### REGISTRATION IN THE TRANSVAAL.

At an ordinary meeting of the Transvaal Medical Council held recently at Johannesburg, at which Dr. W. T. F. Davies presided, the subject of the registration of nurses holding foreign qualifications was discussed in connection with a petition from the Zuid Afrikaans Hospital, Pretoria, praying the Council to amend the regulations for trained nurses which empower it to grant a certificate of competence as a trained nurse to any person trained in England, Ireland, or Scotland, or any British possession holding a certificate, after examination, from any institution or body recognised by the Council. At the same time, the regulations provide that all persons holding foreign diplomas must pass the Council's examination before being accepted for registration.

The authorities of the above hospital were anxious that similar recognition to that given to nurses who possess British certificates should be accorded to those holding certificates granted by responsible examining authorities in Holland.

The Council refused the petition on the ground that it was unable to find any sufficient reason for amending the regulations for trained nurses in the direction indicated in the petition, being influenced by the consideration that if the present practice of the Council were departed from the door would have to be opened not only to Holland, but to all foreign countries, and that as registration in the Transvaal is optional and not obligatory the nurses imported for service in the Zuid Afrikaans Hospital are under no disability.

Dr. Veale, who supported the petition of the Hospital, protested that while the English section of the population was protected it was unfair, in a cosmopolitan country, that nurses of other nations should not be recognised, and urged that a political factor was thus introduced.

The remedy lies not in extending recognition further, but in insisting that all nurses, British or foreign, who desire to register in the Transvaal

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