

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

AT HOME.

The Deputation in support of the Nurses' Registration Bill, to be received by the Prime Minister at the House of Commons on the 28th inst., is to be introduced by Dr. Chapple, M.P., by request of Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P.

By the kind invitation of Mr. R. C. Munro Ferguson, who has for so many years championed the Nurses' Bill, the members of the Deputation will be entertained to tea in the House of Commons.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

Arkansas.—A Bill has been passed for the registration of nurses, signed by the Governor, and a board has been appointed.

Kansas.—Victory is the result of the registration campaign—the Bill has passed and a full examining board of nurses has been appointed. Only one adverse vote was cast.

Montana.—The nurses have secured a Registration Bill. The system is compulsory.

In the States of Maine and Mississippi, Registration Bills are to be presented at an early date.

Of the 37 States now having laws for registration in full force, 27 have recognised that nurses have a right to self-government, and the Examination Board is composed entirely of nurses.

Registration is compulsory in nine of these States.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING offers heartiest congratulations to the State Legislatures and to the nurses of the glorious American Republic. Instead of sending us any more Duchesses, please persuade a few generous-minded American politicians to "Come Over Here." We are sadly in need of them.

Our own poor little ewe lamb, the Nurses' Registration Bill of the United Kingdom, affecting as it does the better nursing of millions of sick people, and the just economic condition of 50,000 trained nurses, has ventured into the Mother of British Parliaments for the eleventh time, where the wolves of greed and reaction are thirsting for its blood. But it is a tenacious and agile little beast, and some of these fine days will skip through its third reading with a whole skin—though no doubt with some loss of wool!

Our remarks in a recent issue calling attention to the fact that the State Registration of Nurses had been excluded from the programme of the Nursing and Midwifery Conference, have borne fruit. A lady whose name is shrouded in mystery will venture to mention it.

NURSES AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

THE TRAINED NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The National Insurance Act does not, as time goes on, grow in the good graces of trained nurses: they resent it in many ways. First, they very greatly object to the panel doctor. "The best physicians and surgeons in London are quite good enough for me, and the most generous help I have always had from them," an R.N.S. nurse recently said to us. "Now some of them can no longer give of their great skill to us; then, I am not only compelled to pay the tax, but it is the restriction of personal liberty to which I object; whatever may be said on the question, this insurance is a poll-tax, and a ticket-of-leave system. In the past I was at liberty to insure as I chose, change my residence without notification, and keep decently sacred matters physical. Now, forsooth, I must fill in cards and books, at certain dates; report every change of address; write full details of my physical condition, to be seen by any cheeky male clerk, who happens to earn thirty shillings a week in an Approved Society's office. Every bit of personal freedom and delicacy seems swept away. I detest the whole spying system. And what for? A pittance of very little use when you get it."

There is, of course, much truth in this complaint; personally, we should hate to conform to it—yet one complaint can be rectified. No trained nurse, or nurse in training, need violate her sense of decency by insuring in a man-managed society. That was one of the principal reasons why the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society was started. It is first and last a friendly society—formed by women for women. The Committee is composed of Matrons and Nurses—the Secretary and clerical staff are women. Every case of sickness is considered decently and in order by women, who know and sympathise with nurses in their various forms of sickness—and the greatest privacy is maintained. The Committee meets weekly, and the payments are promptly authorised. We advise Trained Nurses to become members of this Approved Society, and get their colleagues to do likewise—and thus build up for themselves an influential self-governing and self-managing society where every penny of any surplus would be for their own benefit—quite free from the profit-making system of the average assurance society. The address of the Society is at 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

The Insurance Commissioners have issued a memorandum, setting forth the special conditions which will be considered reasonable grounds for allowing insured nurses and hospital and asylum staffs, who are able, from the nature of their occupations, to obtain a more extensive and convenient service than can be provided by the panel system.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)