

A PROTEST MEETING.

A Meeting of Members of the Society for State Registration of Nurses has been summoned for Thursday, January 23rd, to be held at the Offices, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to consider a Resolution of Protest against the action of Miss Annie McIntosh, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in denying freedom of conscience and speech to the Nursing Staff at that hospital, on their own professional affairs in relation to State Registration. When it is realised that the Select Committee on Registration of the House of Commons has unanimously recommended that Trained Nurses should be registered by the State, and that a Bill supported by the Government has passed through all its stages in the House of Lords without a division at any stage, the arbitrary and untenable position assumed by the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital towards this question of national importance, cannot be permitted to pass without emphatic condemnation and wide publicity. It amounts to the claim that legislation of the utmost importance to every trained nurse, and nurse in training, may be initiated, discussed, and passed into law without bodies of nurses—themselves vitally affected by such legislation—being permitted to consider the Bill or express an opinion upon it!

We deny that any hospital Committee, or Board of Guardians, or their senior nursing or medical officers have the right to refuse to their nursing staff such liberty of conscience and action.

We go further, and claim that it is the duty of every Superintendent of a Training School for Nurses to carefully acquaint herself with every clause of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and, moreover, to see that such proposed legislation is brought to the notice of the nursing staff, and explained to them, so that they can take an intelligent interest in a Bill which affects their work, professional education, economic condition, and status. Any other attitude on the part of a Committee, or Matron, is to be strongly condemned, and to prohibit conscientious consideration of the Bill by nurses is an act of tyranny which every nurse in the kingdom should oppose, whether she approves of State Registration or not.

THE SINEWS OF WAR.

The Editor of this Journal is prepared to fight this question with the utmost pertinacity and publicity in support of the just rights of the nursing profession. This, however, cannot be effectively done without financial support.

She therefore appeals for subscriptions, so that the very widest publicity possible may be given to the Resolution of Protest to be proposed on January 23rd. The constituent hospitals of the Central Hospital Council for London, have, in the past, fought the nurses with charitable funds, and will probably do so again. Many of the big London daily papers, for commercial reasons, are also closed to the just appeal of the nursing profession on the question of State Registration. We must depend upon our own efforts. We have conviction, courage, and tenacity of purpose; our cause is righteous; every penny subscribed will, through voluntary effort, be made to do the work of two, and to prevent any personal persecution, the subscriptions will not be announced in this Journal, but will be receipted privately as gifts to the Society for State Registration of Nurses. The more money, the more effective the Protest can be made. We want to send it far and wide. Please address, the Hon. Secretary, Society for the State Registration of Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and don't forget that rs. will carry 24 communications throughout the kingdom. We hope old Bart.'s nurses will rally to this appeal. We know from their letters how indignant many of them are.

It is, of course, superfluous to report that the quack nursing press supports the anti-Registration Ukase at Bart.'s. It was ever, thus.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Committee of the above Society, held at the offices on Wednesday, the 8th inst., four Sisters who had fulfilled their probationary term were elected on to the staff, and fifteen new candidates were elected on probation. The resignations of the following Sisters were reported, and received with regret:—Sister G. Dorran, now in Victoria, Vancouver Island, where she will continue professional work; Sister M. Duesbury, appointed Sister of the X-ray Department, General Hospital, Birmingham; Sister E. Spencer, to an appointment at Nairobi, British East Africa; and Sister E. M. Mallinson, to home duties.

IRISH MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Irish Matrons' Association held in Dublin on January 11th, Miss Joy, Matron of the Coombe Lying-in Hospital, was elected President; Miss Burkitt, Matron Mercers Hospital, Treasurer; and Miss Reeves, Hon. Secretary, for 1913.

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