

THE PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

Trained nurses will congratulate the teaching profession on the progress made in the scheme providing for their registration by the Teachers' Registration Council, which recently met at the College of Preceptors, London, and approved the regulations under which teachers may be admitted to the Register. It is expected that the regulations will be officially published after the next meeting of the Council at the end of November.

It has been pointed out by one closely associated with the movement that the Registration Council will not only promote the solidarity of the teaching profession, but will act in an advisory capacity to other bodies concerned in educational administration. The effect of the register will, it is hoped, be to bring all sections of education in touch, so that the university professor will have the opportunity of meeting teachers in technical institutions and elementary schools, and thus promote the organic unity of education.

This month's *Charity Organisation Review* contains an article on the State Registration of Trained Nurses by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. The editor remarks that "we had hoped to find an opponent of the suggestion willing to write on the other side, but have failed to do so."

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association it was unanimously decided to adopt the Bill drafted by the Council for State Registration of Nurses in Victoria, to which we have alluded.

"So far as can be ascertained," says the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, "there seems to be every likelihood of the Bill passing through Parliament and becoming law . . . there seems no immediate prospect of State Registration in New South Wales. An attempt was to be made to restore Sir Charles MacKellar's Bill to the business paper of the present session of the State Parliament, but there is apparently not even the remotest chance of its being dealt with if it were restored." The nursing profession is so well organized in many details in New South Wales that presumably the nurses do not realise the lack of legal status—or surely, enfranchised as they are, they could soon obtain this dignified distinction.

Anyway they will have to claim equality with their colleagues in Victoria, or complications are sure to arise. There can be no reciprocity of work without equality before the law.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE NURSE IN THE ESTIMATION OF THE PUBLIC.

THE DISCUSSION.

An interesting discussion followed the reading of Miss Mollett's paper on the above subject, at the Meeting of the Matrons' Council on October 3rd. Mrs. Fenwick in opening it said, that in her editorial capacity it was no exaggeration to state that during the past three months she had received a clothes basket full of newspaper cuttings, relating to nurses and nursing. This was all to the good, because it proved a widespread interest in their affairs, and the more the public probed into them the greater necessity it would find for systematic reforms—if trained nurses were to satisfy its demands. At present there appeared to be no medium in the opinions of the public. They described trained nurses either as "she devils," or "very angels of God." We knew nurses could not justly be included in either of these extreme types, but we could not delude ourselves that, as a class, nurses were popular with the general public. Could those present say why?

The opinion was expressed by Miss Macvittie that the trained nurses who came most intimately into touch with the public in private nursing, were very exacting and unadaptable. Love of their work was not their first instinct, with the result that they did not invariably study first their patients' comfort, or consider the ways of the household. Also, they often carried extravagant hospital ways into private houses where such expenditure could not be afforded, and this was naturally resented. From such nurses the public were led to form unfavourable impressions of the profession as a whole.

Miss C. Todd thought that the more or less mechanical training in hospital was responsible for the rigidity of the average nurse. In hospital nurses were necessarily trained for institution work, on somewhat mechanical lines; patients were expected to do, and usually did, exactly as they were told, this did not tend to develop the tactful initiative so necessary in dealing with patients who did not expect to obey in detail. It was a pity that during hospital training this necessary elasticity with private patients was not more impressed upon probationers. Rigid hospital routine was not suited to nursing individual patients outside. Even in relation to the medical attendant the nurse should realise that her presence was not always required. There was no reason for her to wait upon the doctor all the time in a private house, as she was expected to do in a ward. Patient and doctor should be given the opportunity of private converse. The hospital system alone did not appear to be altogether the best method of preparing a woman for personal responsibility and encouraging adaptability.

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