

Children's Hospital rendered most valuable service.

The following information is of interest:—  
“The ‘lady probationer’ was never a feature of Scottish hospital life, and the schools are genuinely democratic, candidates, provided they are well educated, and have natural refinement, being accepted from all ranks and classes of society, and nurses are salaried from the commencement of training. None of the hospitals have private nursing institutions attached. The hospitals are essentially training schools, and, when qualified, the pupil goes out to make her own way. There are many co-operations of nurses in the country, and one or two institutions still survive which were established in early days to train and send out private nurses.”

### STATE REGISTRATION AT GLASGOW.

When we perused the programme of the Nursing Conference in Glasgow it was somewhat of a shock to find that the vital question to nurses and the public—the State Registration of Nurses—was not to be discussed. Having been assured that the Scottish Nursing Conference was a professional affair, organized by the leading Matrons, we naturally expected to find it in the forefront of discussion. We are aware that Scotland is “solid” for registration—that Matrons, nurses, doctors, and hospital governors are associated together in the most liberal spirit to effect its progress—but even then the great public, and our canny Scottish legislators, are far too absorbed in their own affairs to push our affairs for us, unless we impress upon them at every turn and “shout it very loud and clear” that we must be attended to.

Therefore we hope it is not yet too late to discuss Registration and pass a Resolution in support of it.

In the meantime “Registration” will be made the feature of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING stand (A. 15.) at the Exhibition; indeed, it will be our *raison d'être* for being there at all.

Miss B. Kent has most kindly consented to attend at our stand and talk Registration to all and sundry. She will also sell literature bearing on the question, and give all the reliable information possible on the subject. There will be no competition in thus supporting the best interests of the Nursing Profession—as apparently such a detail does not count with the lay-edited nursing Press!

The following most able letter, signed jointly by Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson and

Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., appeared in the *London Times* on the 28th ult. It states our case admirably, and should be carefully read and passed on to members of Parliament, and those who do not understand the important issues involved in the registration question.

### THE NEED OF LEGISLATION.

SIR,—In the press of political questions of great importance which at this moment are occupying public attention, smaller measures of much utility, but less arresting in character, are in danger of being completely overlooked.

One such measure is the Registration of Nurses Bill which has been before Parliament since 1904, and in favour of whose principle a Select Committee of the House of Commons has reported, while the General Medical Council and the British Medical Association have also frequently passed resolutions in its support. A similar Bill passed its third reading and was carried in the House of Lords in 1908, with the support of the Government and of the Leader of the Opposition.

Registration of teachers is now an accomplished fact, and such registration has the warm approval of all educationalists. We contend that there is an even greater necessity that the public should be enabled by a similar system of registration to ascertain the qualifications of those who attend upon the sick. It is not asserted that such registration would give a definite and continuing guarantee that every registered nurse was a good nurse, any more than the registration of teachers and physicians guarantees that these persons will necessarily be successful teachers and physicians. But it will at least give the public a guarantee that such nurses have passed through a recognized training, have qualified in specified branches of professional learning, and that at the time of registration they bore a good and honourable character.

The Bill also provides for a disciplinary nursing council, empowered, as in the case of the Midwives Board, to remove from the roll the names of individuals found guilty of moral or professional delinquencies. The necessity for creating such a governing body has been brought to notice by recent notorious police cases, which sufficiently demonstrated the evils of a system which makes it easy for any woman to call herself a trained nurse, to wear hospital uniform, and under cover of her professed character to carry on any kind of nefarious practice.

Evidence laid before the Select Committee also proved that, for want of a recognized standard of qualification, it was open to individuals and to associations providing nurses for gain or for charitable purposes to contend that those they supplied were, whatever their qualifications, technically “trained nurses,” and, in consequence, nurses with a few months' training, nurses with only a maternity training, and nurses who had never been anything but “hospital failures” were being supplied to the public who, moreover, even if they

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)