

wife and myself. You may be sure that we will never forget our responsibilities towards your Committee."

We know it will give great pleasure to all those nurses who have for so many years been associated with Sir Ronald C. Munro Ferguson in a demand for the organization of the nursing profession, to know that he will still sympathise with their efforts for the public good, although on the other side of the world.

REGISTRATION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On February 12th, Dr. Chapple asked the Secretary for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to instances of the abuse of nurses' uniforms during the past few months; and whether he would give his support to a Bill for the State registration of nurses in order to meet this and other evils that were leading to the scarcity of nurses in the ranks of the profession.

Mr. McKenna replied that:—"During the past few months my attention has not been called to any case of the kind. The police will make inquiry, but so far as they are aware such cases are of very rare occurrence. Recent Bills on the subject of the registration of nurses have not touched on this matter, and there would be serious difficulties in framing any provision of the nature suggested. I cannot make any promise with regard to a Bill."

We have done ourselves the pleasure of forwarding to the Home Secretary reports of the "Nurse Betty" case, the Thayer Street Massage Scandal, the White Slave Decoy case at Hastings, and the case of the notorious bigamist, thief, and incendiary, "Sister Mary Leslie, M.A.," now out of jail once more, and no doubt prepared to nurse a Cabinet Minister if she gets the chance! We suggest that a few policewomen might be appointed to deal with these infamies, who would doubtless keep Mr.

McKenna better informed on such questions than is evidently the case at present.

REGISTRATION IN THE *Times*.

In the *Times* correspondence on Nurses' Registration, Dr. Bedford Fenwick put the case for legislation. He, like Sir Victor Horsley, deprecated dragging the honoured name of Miss Florence Nightingale into the controversy. Quoting from a conversation he had with her in 1888, he writes:—"Her last words to me were—'Perhaps registration will come in 30 years, but nurses are not ready for it now.'"

Dr. Fenwick points out that:—

"The movement has now spread all over the world, and 48 Acts of Parliament have been passed in British Colonies and foreign countries, with the most beneficial results to every interest concerned. In this country we have moved slowly, but with increasing success. In 1889 the General Medical Council, the statutory governing and registering body of the medical profession, passed a unanimous resolution that the registration of nurses was desirable. In 1895, 1904, and 1906 the British Medical Association, composed of the medical practitioners throughout the United Kingdom, passed unanimous resolutions asking for an Act of Parliament for that purpose—in other words, for providing a professional council to supervise the education, public registration, and discipline



THE LADY HELEN MUNRO FERGUSON,
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REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

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line of trained nurses. In 1904 and 1905 a Select Committee of the House of Commons inquired into the whole subject, and, after hearing every possible argument against it, unanimously reported that legislation for that purpose was desirable. In 1908 the House of Lords devoted five sittings to a Nurses' Registration Bill, which received the cordial support of both the Government and the Opposition, and was finally passed through every stage without one division. For nine years one or more Bills have been introduced each year into the House of Commons but not one has succeeded in obtaining a place in the ballot.

"I submit that a measure for the national pro-

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