

tection of the sick from the gravest dangers, and for the proper education and control of a most honourable and important body of some 50,000 women, which has such a record of support as I have quoted, and which by the most scrupulous constitutional means has been advocated for more than a quarter of a century, can fairly claim the same sympathetic hearing from the House of Commons that it has so fully received from a Select Committee of that House and from the House of Lords. I would also submit to those who do not approve of so-called "militant methods" that it is open to obvious misconception if constitutional methods, patiently pursued for 26 years, in a matter of national importance to a woman's profession are persistently ignored and proved to be futile—so far as the House of Commons is concerned.

MR. ASQUITH IN FAVOUR OF REGISTRATION.

"It is the more strange as a large number of members of every section of that House are strongly in favour of this legislation, and as Mr. Asquith himself on January 1st, 1906, during the then pending General Election, directed Mr. Mark Sturgis to write that 'he is in favour of the registration of nurses and will do what he can to support legislation in that direction.' We have been waiting with considerable patience for eight years for the fulfilment of that promise from the Prime Minister."

Let us hope the Prime Minister will redeem this promise with all possible speed.

Lord Knutsford in a short letter wrote that it could easily be shown that State Registration would have exactly the reverse effect, from that which it has already been proved to possess, where such legislation is in force; and, indeed, "that it would cast a slur on the many not fully trained nurses who are doing splendid and devoted work all over the country as village and district nurses."

The published truth with regard to training and efficiency would cast no "slur" on any worker who did not profess to be what she was not, and would only serve to demonstrate the excellent qualifications of Queen's Nurses, whose standard should be universally adopted for those nursing the poor in their own homes. After Lord Knutsford's "not proven" pronouncement, the editor of the *Times* closed this valuable and illuminating correspondence, and thereby deprived the public of further powerful evidence in support of this urgently needed reform.

By invitation, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will address the Nursing Staff at the Eastern Hospital, Homerton, on State Registration, on the evening of the 26th inst.

NURSING EDUCATION.

We are indebted to Miss Annie W. Goodrich, R.N., President of the International Council of Nurses, for the interesting information that at the Inauguration of Dr. John Huston Finley as President of the University of the State of New York, and Commissioner of Education, Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, Director of the Department of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, bore greetings as their delegate from the International Council of Nurses and the National League of Nursing Education.

GREETINGS FROM THE WORLD'S NURSES TO DR. JOHN HUSTON FINLEY, NEW YORK.

Mr. President,—I have the honour and the pleasure of bringing you warm greetings from National and International bodies of Nurses, who feel your accession to these high offices in the State to be a matter for profound congratulation, fraught with vast importance to the educational issues with which they have to deal.

One of those societies, national in scope, is made up of superintendents, teachers and head-workers of training schools for nurses, institutions unique in history, which have for over half-a-century performed for the public the double service of caring for the sick, and simultaneously of maintaining a system of education and training.

To this State of New York has been given the opportunity, at a critical period in the development of this system, of showing to the world that the education of the nurse is a part of education as a whole, guided by the same principles, governed by the same laws. It has the honour of being the first State in the world to bring the education of nurses under the control of its educational authorities. This relation is of vast importance to the 30,000 students of nursing now under the direction of the superintendents and teachers whom I today represent; to future generations of students it may be of even greater significance, since in no period of the development of training schools has their administration and their control been a matter of greater moment.

For never before in history has the health of the people been of such great public concern, never has it been of such importance to national welfare. The many new measures arising for the protection of public health depend in a very large degree for adequate performance upon nurses, and it is of the highest possible importance—it is, indeed, essential—that they should be women, not only of sympathy, insight and ideals, but above all of sound education and training and of capacity for growth.

The International Council of Nurses, which now includes twenty-three countries, is deeply concerned in the support of proper educational standards, and urges State control as the only way of establishing and maintaining them. It is hardly too much to say that every State in this

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