

## STATE REGISTRATION.

### A PETITION TO THE PREMIER.

At the recent meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses held in London, it was agreed to Petition the Premier for time for the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and that the Petition should be supplemented by an appendix signed by Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland. The response to this invitation has been most encouraging, but as several of the invitations to sign have miscarried, we are requested to inform such Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses, as have not received a copy of the Petition, and wish to support the Registration Bill, that they can procure a copy of the Petition for signature from the Hon. Secretaries, Central Registration Committee, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. Application should be made without delay.

Every night (of course, excepting Saturday and Sunday) since our last issue Dr. Chapple has had the Nurses' Registration Bill down for Second Reading in the House of Commons, and quite as persistently Sir Frederick Banbury has popped up and blocked it. Fancy the vaunted British Constitution permitting one "anti" to obstruct legislation considered necessary for the public welfare by a 228 majority vote! It is like a Gilbert and Sullivan extravaganza.

But, we repeat, go on working, go on enlightening the public, especially voters, go on educating members of Parliament, go on agitating, it all tells in. No reason to lose temper, or patience, or a minute, or anything else. Everything comes in handy—use it, only don't sit down and do nothing, and allow others to be overworked.

You live somewhere, therefore you are in the constituency of some member of Parliament. Make his acquaintance either personally or by letter. No need to be afraid of taking up a little of his time with your affairs—your affairs are what you pay him to look after—false pride on either side under such conditions is not permissible. We always find members of Parliament most kind. Just tell yours simply, the truth of the need for State organization of your work, so that you may be more efficient in social service, and as part of the State receive such consideration as is your due; and *ask him to do all in his power to urge the Government to give time for the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill.*

Mr. Boyton, member for Marylebone, introduced the Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Registration Bill on Thursday in last week. The Bill is pronounced by the *Times* to be of "vital importance to all those who have to do with real property." Property—property—of how much greater value it is than human life with which Nurses' Registration is concerned.

### REGISTRATION IN HOLLAND.

Miss van Lanschot Hubrecht, President of the Dutch Nurses' Association, with Miss Helen van der Vies, has just paid a brief visit to this country, very happily timed, as, at the International Headquarters, she was able to meet the English officers and other English friends, and Miss L. L. Dock. Of course, San Francisco, and the ways and means of getting there were discussed. Evidently Holland does not mean to be behindhand, and the Dutch President and delegates are planning to travel by the nurses' train from New York across the continent.

Miss van Lanschot Hubrecht was able to give a very hopeful account of the prospects of State Registration of Nurses in Holland. It has been discussed in the Dutch Parliament, not only in the second chamber, where there was quite a long debate, but in the first chamber it has also been sympathetically referred to. One point we learned which retards nursing progress in Holland, is that while, for most professions, a good general education is demanded, hospital authorities are content with a certificate showing that the candidate left school at twelve years of age. The tendency therefore is for the less educated classes to gravitate to nursing, and conversely for well educated girls to reject it when deciding on a career. One hopeful sign of the times is that the Orders of Deaconesses, of which there are many in Holland, are beginning to realize the necessity for more thorough professional training, and better remuneration, and quite recently one of their chaplains has been urging these reforms, so that it seems as if they are preparing to move with the times.

### INFLUENTIAL MEETING IN EDINBURGH.

The annual meeting of the Association for the Registration of Nurses in Scotland was held on the 19th inst. in the Society of Arts Hall, George Street, Edinburgh. Lord Inverclyde, the President, presided, and amongst those present were Sir John Halliday Croom, Sir James Affleck, Dr. Playfair, Edinburgh; Dr. Thom, Superintendent of the

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