

guarantees of a nurse's efficiency before she is entrusted with the care and often the lives of sick people.

No doubt it is giving superfluous advice to warn readers of this journal against statements on the Registration question circulated by the anti-registration press. After twenty-five years of its unscrupulous tactics, they may well be treated with the contempt they deserve. The fact that both Houses of Parliament have given expression to their belief in the principle of State Registration makes it obvious that the only policy left to the opposition is to prevent by every means in its power the Second Reading of our Bill in the House of Commons, which they know would pass with a splendid majority. We find, therefore, that several members (all Unionists, we regret to note), amongst them, of course, Mr. Harry Lawson, a member of the London Hospital House Committee, have put down motions to reject the Bill. Associated with him are Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry), Lord Robert Cecil (Hitchin), Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University), Mr. Pollock (Warwick and Leamington), and Viscount Wolmer (Newton-le-Willows).

In spite of their present attitude of obstruction we still hope to see all these gentlemen in the "right" Lobby, in support of the Second Reading, when that great event takes place, as we feel quite certain it will at no distant date.

Of course, the opposition has availed itself of the power of blocking, but it will not alter the ultimate fate of a Bill with the large majority behind it which the Nurses' Bill has got. Sooner or later it is sure to become law—sooner if we are strong and loyal, later if we wobble. Our policy must continue to be steady, untiring, and unflinching tenacity of purpose; it is the surest method of commanding success if inspired by a sense of duty. We have a glorious cause: we are fighting for the efficient care and comfort of sick people of all classes, and for just conditions for a fine and indispensable profession for women. We have just got to win sooner or later—only we must pull together.

We much rejoice to learn that the Branches of the National Union of Trained Nurses are being advised to consider the question of State Registration. Meetings for this purpose are being arranged at several centres.

The *American Journal of Nursing* announces that the Registration Bill in the State of Ken-

tucky has passed the House, and that the nurses are working hard for a like victory in the Senate. Should the Governor sign this Bill, it will make the 39th State to enforce this useful legislation. When will our turn come?

MEETING AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

On Thursday evening, April 2nd, a meeting was held in the large Sitting Room of the Nurses' Home, Guy's Hospital, London. Dr. Goodall, Medical Superintendent Eastern Hospital, Homerton, kindly gave an address to a large and appreciative audience of past and present nurses and sisters on the most interesting subject possible to such a gathering, "State Registration of Nurses."

Miss Haughton, the Matron, in introducing Dr. Goodall to the nurses, said that although they would only hear that evening of the advantages which Dr. Goodall and his supporters firmly believed would accrue to the nursing profession by the passing of the Nurses Registration Bill, it was one of the questions of the day on which each nurse must weigh the evidence and make up her own mind, just as she was called upon to take a definite stand upon all serious matters confronting her, whether spiritual, social, or political.

Discussion and questions were specially invited, and Miss Haughton suggested that the nurses should read the Bill and the literature published by both sides.

In his interesting address, Dr. Goodall explained the object of the Bill "to ensure that the community shall have a guarantee that the nurses they employ are skilled in their professional duties and through standardisation to give security to the public that the services of fully qualified nurses shall be readily obtainable." The duties and powers and composition of the General Nursing Council, which is to carry out the objects of the Bill by the examination and registration of nurses, were next described.

Nurses should take a special interest in the formation of this Council and should insist that women and especially medical women and registered nurses should form a just proportion of its numbers.

Dr. Goodall considered this important principle guaranteed, as it was proposed that half the Council should be composed of registered nurses, and medical practitioners included women.

Regarding regulations of training and examinations and the adoption of a minimum uniform standard, it was instructive to learn that the "one portal system," for which the Nurses Bill provides, may eventually obtain in granting medical degrees and diplomas.

The address touched upon the chief points of interest in such an interesting subject, including one of vital importance to the certificated nurse and those now training. Their position under the Bill will be safeguarded in the same way as all practising midwives were on the passing of the Midwives Act. The Central Ex-

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