

BURNING QUESTIONS.

THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

There are many burning questions in the nursing world—and they will continue to flare until such time, as nurses have legal status—and therefore power to adjust their own affairs. In the meantime, professional co-operation is the most effective method of preventing bad conditions becoming worse. The question of the registration of Nursing Homes has been for long a smouldering question—fanned into a flame quite recently in the metropolis by the action of the London County Council. The readers of this JOURNAL have been carefully kept informed of all the details of this question, so that there is no need to repeat them; but what has been brought home to the Superintendents of Nursing Homes is the fact of their helplessness as units in any question of legislation, owing to their lack of professional co-operation. Union is strength sounds trite—yet it is very true—and the fact remains that when the London County Council proposed to include Nursing Homes in their legislative scheme to control, more effectively, Disorderly Houses, the Superintendents of such Homes were quite unprepared to take forceful and united action in support of their mutual interests, and of the interests of their patients. They had no association—many of them, exceedingly busy women, had

little time to organize, or even to keep themselves well informed on matters which affected the professional status, and economic condition of the institutions they controlled.

Under these circumstances, as already reported, the National Council of Trained Nurses took prompt action—a députation of Superintendents and others were received last December by the Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council, which was responsible for drafting the Bill, providing that the Council should have the power to register Nursing Homes. The Memorandum presented appeared in this JOURNAL on December 20th, 1913, and embodies the professional opinion of Superintendents who approve of such registration if conducted in a professional manner.

Later some of the Metropolitan Borough Councils demanded to be the registering authority instead of the London County Council, and it was then that Mrs. Stabb, wife of Mr. Arthur Stabb, Obstetric Physician to St. George's Hospital, one of the younger generation of retired nurses (certificated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital) and so well known for her work in



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carrying for the International Nursing Library—realising how all important it was that the Superintendents should speak with a united voice at this crisis, interviewed many on the subject. In a few hours she was able to forward to the London County Council a resolution signed by quite a number of Superintendents objecting strongly to the Borough

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