

**PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.**

Sir Victor Horsley, replying in the *British Medical Journal* to Lord Knutsford's criticism of Mr. Garstang's statement that unanimity exists on the Registration question, "except for the party led by Lord Knutsford," says that it shows once more that his lordship cannot understand the difference between a constitutional opposition and a factious opposition, such as that which he has got up against the State registration of nurses.

He writes:—"The action taken by our Association, after many years of hard work and close consideration, has been confirmed over and over again in committees and Representative Meetings, including the one just closed. It is supported by all the nurses' associations in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the bill which he seeks to hinder has been agreed upon by all these bodies, and is being put forward by a joint committee representing all these bodies.

"Finally, it has been warmly supported at all open meetings of nurses during the past twelve months, and the only meeting where Lord Knutsford appeared in opposition carried it against him by a large majority. Against these constitutional procedures he dares to put the opinions of private individuals, collected by himself, on a circular containing several incorrect assertions and no argument.

"This is precisely the sort of thing I protested against Mr. Asquith doing when the last deputation went to him on the subject. I pointed out to Mr. Asquith on that occasion that these *ex cathedra* opinions, collected by Mr. Holland (as he was then), were merely bureaucratic, and could not for a moment be quoted against the constitutional resolutions of the British Medical Association and other representative bodies.

"The very matrons Lord Knutsford names as objecting to the bill I myself visited a few months ago, and found them profoundly unacquainted with registration by the State. They knew none of its purposes nor of the great advantages it offers to every trained calling. All they feared was a loss of controlling influence. Even this I showed them was a delusion, and that their personal influence and control of their nurses would be unaffected."

**LEAGUE NEWS.**

The Journal of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League keeps the members well in touch with progressive professional affairs. The following story shows what a rapid State is California, and how necessary it will be for us to be up-to-date before we go there:—

"In San Francisco recently Policewoman Rhoda Thomson requisitioned an aeroplane to pursue a motor car which was tearing along at sixty miles an hour. Rhoda, who was accompanied by an aviator, chased the motor car over a long distance, and finally, as the chauffeur of the car refused to stop, the aeroplane was dropped low enough to permit her to get the offender's number. The next day he was fined £5."

**THE SUPPRESSION OF PROFESSIONAL CONSCIENCE.****THE ST. GEORGE'S VETO.**

The fact that the Selection Committee of St. George's Hospital demanded an "undertaking" seriously interfering with personal liberty and free speech, from the candidates for the recent vacant office of Matron to the institution, will we think be conceded by every unbiased person who reads carefully the following correspondence: Let it speak for itself.

PRIVATE.

St. George's Hospital, S.W.

July 27th, 1914.

DEAR MADAM,—I regret that I was not in the Hospital when you called yesterday.

As members of the governing body of this charity we have no politics, but we decided that the successful candidate for the office of Matron should give an undertaking not to take an active part in political or social propaganda whilst in the service of the Hospital. As Chairman of the Selection Committee, I explained this to each candidate, pointing out that we did not enquire as to the personal views of the candidates, and that the only object of the undertaking was that our Matron should devote her whole time to the Hospital and not take up any time or thought for propaganda on one side or the other in any such field as mentioned. Every candidate expressed her willingness to give the desired undertaking, and the lady who was ultimately selected gave hers verbally to the House Committee.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

F. J. FRANKAU,

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Deputy Treasurer,  
20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,  
20, Upper Wimpole Street,  
London, W.

July 31st, 1914.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to thank you for your letter of July 27th, and hope I may be permitted to reply to it at some length, as the question under discussion, whether or no it is justifiable for a committee of a public institution, such as a hospital, to demand from an official, either male or female, an undertaking that no "time or thought" should be devoted to either "political or social propaganda," is one not only of vital importance to the nursing profession, but to the public at large.

As Chairman of the Selection Committee for a Matron for St. George's Hospital, you evidently think such extraordinary deprivation of personal liberty is permissible. May I, therefore, place before you, as a former Matron of a large hospital

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