

women of better education, to adopt nursing as a career.

4. Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray that His Majesty's Government may be pleased to afford the necessary facilities so that the pending Bill may be considered on its merits and, if approved by the legislature, passed into law in the course of the present Session.

AND YOUR MEMORIALISTS WILL EVER PRAY, &c.

Signed by Order, for and on behalf of The Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses.

AMPTHILL.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

EDWARD WILBERFORCE GOODALL.

APPENDIX.

Petition

OF MATRONS OF HOSPITALS, AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF NURSES, SUPPORTING THE MEMORIAL OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES, PRAYING FOR FACILITIES FOR THE PASSING OF THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

To The Right Hon. H. H. ASQUITH, M.P.,
Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury, &c.

WE, the undersigned Matrons of Hospitals, and Superintendents of Nurses, being convinced that, in the interest of the community, it is an urgent necessity that a Nurses' Registration Bill should be passed without delay, respectfully and earnestly petition that facilities may be given, during the present Session of Parliament, for the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons, which, on its introduction by Dr. Chapple, M.P., on March 3rd, 1914, secured a majority of 228 votes, cast by Members of all Parties in the House.

This Petition has been signed by 525 Matrons and Superintendents of Nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Blocking motions still stand in the names of Sir F. Banbury (City of London), Mr. W. C. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry), the Honourable H. L. W. Lawson (Mile End, *Daily Telegraph*, and London Hospital Committee), Mr. E. M. Pollock, K.C. (Warwick and Leamington), Mr. J. F. P. Rawlinson, K.C. (Cambridge University), and Viscount Wolmer (Newton-le-Willows). The League of 782 certificated St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, and other Matrons and nurses working in the City area, should not hesitate to express their opinions to Sir Frederick Banbury. We

hope nurses living in the constituencies of the other members will make a point of seeing or writing to these gentlemen, and supplying them with reasons why they should follow the example of Lord Robert Cecil and remove their blocking motions.

REGISTRATION NEWS.

Lord Knutsford is circularising the committees of hospitals, and urging them to oppose the Nurses' Registration Bill. Many will do so no doubt, without either consulting the nursing or medical professions—which are practically united to secure it. Intolerance upon the part of hospital managers at this crisis of nursing affairs, when the supply of good women for training does not nearly meet the demand, can only end in disaster for the sick and suffering poor. Let us hope hospital committees will hesitate to follow Lord Knutsford's obstructive policy. Employers in these days cannot afford to ignore the workers' point of view.

Sir Victor Horsley criticises in the *East Anglian Daily Times* what he terms "the worn out objections of Lord Knutsford," and in a very forcible letter reviews the registration question—and claims, as we do, that when nurses have obtained State Registration they will find that their education will be greatly improved, their work facilitated, their hours of work and remuneration improved, and, above all, there will be established a solidarity and means of organized co-operation between the members of the nursing profession which at the present moment it is practically impossible to obtain. All this will mean infinitely greater efficiency in nursing, and therefore a greater additional benefit to the public.

It is very generally realised that nursing legislation cannot be long delayed. But how is the question? Direct representation of the registered nurses on the Nursing Council, and the "one portal" to the register, are of course aspirations of progressive educationalists. Those who oppose registration, whether they realise it or not, really oppose the self-government of the nursing profession. There is now associated a group of Matrons, who, though opposing registration, wish if it is inevitable, to register hospitals and not nurses, thus the present "go-as-you-please" system of education would be perpetuated by Act of Parliament, and the nurses deprived of the inspiration and benefit of a central examination test (the one portal) before registration. Such a system would stultify registration and deprive it of all co-ordinating force. This group also desires more power for Acting Matrons on the Central Nursing Council. They do not wish to be subjected to popular election by the registered nurses. Perhaps it could be arranged they should be elected by their peers (fellow Matrons).

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