

STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

Dr. Chapple, M.P., has kindly consented to introduce the Nurses' Registration Bill into the House of Commons in the coming Session, which according to present arrangements will be opened by the King in person on November 11th. We would earnestly ask every nurse who really cares for high standards of nursing to write and ask any Member of Parliament with whom she has any influence to ballot for the Bill, and to do it without delay.

"REGISTRATION FEELING."

We are thoroughly glad to find from our correspondence, and from expert criticism, that there is a very strong wave of Registration feeling being aroused amongst well-trained nurses, and sensible women, by the utter lack of effective organization in the nursing profession, resulting in all and sundry going to the front to nurse the sick and wounded, whether efficiently trained and personally suitable for the work or not. The fact is that our soldiers are often at the mercy of people who have neither knowledge nor right to select nurses for their service, and this is more especially the case with the "flying squads" and in the little hospitals run by society people, who know absolutely nothing of nursing education, or the value of certificates, and who apparently pin their entire faith on nurses' uniform, to judge from their own widely advertised pictures in the press.

From the present confusion in nursing affairs, two conclusions can be drawn with very little difficulty. (1) That in time of War the War Office should control the nursing of the Empire's defenders on land and sea. To do this needs greater professional influence, expenditure, and elasticity in time of peace; and (2) that Nursing on the same principle as Medicine should be compulsorily standardised by the State through a Nursing Act, just as the quality of medical aid provided to the sick is guaranteed under the Medical Acts. Without this State standard our soldiers and sailors, in their hours of greatest need, may be, and are in many instances, the sport of the amateur, to the risk of life and limb. If anything will rouse the Government to take steps to protect these brave men when broken in our defence, from the chance of dangerously unskilled handling, it should be the knowledge that at present neither the War Office, nor any other Government Department, has an effective means, such as could be provided by Registration, to prevent it.

A PATRIOTIC DUTY.

It is without doubt the patriotic duty of every well-trained nurse, worth her salt, to be educating the public and Members of Parliament on the importance of this national question of nursing efficiency and educational reform, so that those who are qualified may be granted the distinctive title of "Registered Nurse," and their expert skill readily available by the public without confusion. In War it is of vital importance to the Empire that the quality of medicine and nursing should be of the very best, and hand in hand should, working in close harmony, save every scrap of human mechanism from the wreckage of shot and shell. In the saving of pain, of broken health, of death—nothing short of the very best is good enough for those who gladly give their all for their country's honour.

To this end, the Nurses' Registration Bill will be again, and for the twelfth time, introduced into Parliament in the coming Session, and its promoters are prepared to urge just as strenuously in the future as they have done in the past, that for the benefit of the community the Nursing Profession shall be organized and protected under statutory authority, just as the men's professions are, especially those responsible for standards of National Health.

We know our demand is just, and we shall continue to urge it.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

A meeting of the Grand Council of the Territorial Force Nursing Service of the City and County of London was held at the Mansion House on Monday afternoon, October 19th; the Lady Mayoress, Lady Bowater, presided. An interesting report was received, in which it was notified that the four General Hospitals for London were mobilised and in full working order, and that Their Majesties the King and Queen had visited three of the hospitals and expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements for the comfort of the sick and wounded. The special War Committee has received generous support and gifts; the Queen has presented to each hospital a wheel chair, as well as a large number of garments.

The following were elected as officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing year: Chairman, the Lady Mayoress of London; Vice Chair, Lady Dimsdale; Hon. Secretary, Miss Goodhue. The following ladies, having fulfilled the three years' term of service, retired: Miss McCall Anderson, Lady Beachcroft, Lady Codrington, Miss Crosby, and Mrs. Dent; and the following were elected to fill the vacancies: Mrs. Byron, Miss Davies, Miss Amy Hughes, the Hon. Lady Lyttelton, and Lady Mackinnon.

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