

A STRONG PLEA FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

The issue of *Truth* of June 2nd contains a much needed warning against the adventurers and adventuresses anxious to make their "bit" out of charitable schemes at this time, and states that not even the excellence of the objects for which charities are started should prevent enquiry into the character of the promoters. In this connection, it instances the career of M. Teresa Bryan, of whom it states, "Originally Bryan was a lady's maid. She was trusted to pay tradesmen's bills, and making use of the opportunity afforded her, she signed a cheque for £50 with her mistress's signature, and appropriated the proceeds. Her conviction for forgery followed at Lewes Assizes, in November, 1905, when she was sentenced to six months' hard labour. When the War broke out, she emerged into public view, as secretary to a fund for establishing a British Field Hospital in Belgium. She obtained influential support, and departed for the Continent with a fully equipped ambulance. One or two little incidents opened the eyes of those associated with her. Cash, which ought to have been paid out, did not reach the right persons, and Bryan was relieved of her duties. But the opportunities afforded by charitable work had evidently impressed her. She continued her efforts, with the result that she managed to secure a donation of £125, which she appropriated. She managed to make a sufficiently plausible explanation to induce the donor not to prosecute, and shortly afterwards started another charity, 'The Allies' Sterilized Dressing Supply Organization.' The aims of the organization were excellent, and again influential support was forthcoming. Mr. H. Dickens, K.C., lent his house, 2, Egerton Place, S.W., for its headquarters; and only the mere chance of an eminent lady, who knew Bryan's connection with the field hospital, identifying her by means of a photograph, prevented royal recognition of the new charity.

"It was in March last that Bryan started her latest scheme. Nominally, she had a committee, but she kept only one book; and her dealings with the cash were so unsatisfactory that the committee resigned. Towards the end of April, she seems to have realized the necessity for some sort of business management, and a gentleman was called in to organize the organization on a business basis. She was never destined, however, to realize the fruit of his labours. On April 29th, for some reason or other, a police officer called at 2, Egerton Place, and requested an interview with Miss Bryan. She was 'out' to her visitor, who made an appointment for the following day. The moment he departed, Bryan hurriedly left the house, returning early next morning to remove a basket. She left no address, and for the moment has dropped into the obscurity from which she emerged at the beginning of the War."

It is not conceivable that, had there been

a State Register of Nurses in existence, so flagrant an exploitation of our sick and wounded soldiers would have been possible.

This Belgian Field Hospital is the one in connection with which sundry of its untrained staff created so unenviable a sensation by appearing in men's sporting clothes, including covert coats and top boots—a group of whom were included in the gallery of portraits of "Fancy Dress at the Front," sent with our protest against such institutions to the Director-General of the Army Medical Service.

COMING EVENTS.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Thursday, June 17th, at 11 a.m. Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the Society.

AGENDA.

- 1, Minutes of the last Annual Meeting; 2, To receive the Annual Report and Audited Accounts; 3, To elect the Executive Committee for the ensuing year; 4, Address on Military Nursing and Registration, Miss Beatrice Cutler; 5, To consider the following resolution:—

RESOLUTION.

"That the mobilization of the Nursing Profession, owing to the War, has demonstrated the absolute necessity for a standard of Nursing Proficiency, and the Registration of those who attain the same, in order that the Government may have accurate information as to the number, names, qualifications, and addresses of the trained nurses available. Moreover, a State Register is the only means through which the public can avail themselves of skilled or unskilled nursing, according to their requirements.

That as the State Registration of Trained Nurses is a non-party question, of national importance to our sick and wounded sailors and soldiers, the present moment is opportune for a non-party Government to deal with it.

This meeting therefore petitions His Majesty's Government to give facilities for the consideration of the Nurses' Registration Bill, in charge of Dr. Chapple, M.P."

Your attendance is earnestly requested.

MARGARET BREAY,

Hon. Secretary.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Conference Day 1915, June 17th: 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

Morning Session, 12 noon, Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, "The Need for a Trained Nurses' Economic League": Miss Henrietta J. Hawkins, P.L.G.; Discussion.

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