

THE NEED FOR A STATE REGISTER.

The need of a State Register of Nurses, from which the names of nurses who prove themselves unworthy of trust can be removed, found illustration in a case recently heard at the Cirencester Police Court, when a nurse who had been employed at the Bingham Hall Red Cross Hospital was convicted of stealing marked money from a coat pocket in the dressing-room at the hospital, the property of the Commandant, Mrs. Swanwick. Two further similar charges were not proceeded with.

The prisoner, who pleaded guilty, asked the magistrates to be kind to her, and promised never to offend again.

Mrs. Swanwick said that there had been numerous thefts at the hospital, and as everyone who went into the dressing-room was under suspicion, she determined to clear the matter up. She had no desire to press the case against the prisoner, who did her work splendidly.

The Chairman said that as this was a first offence, and the present proceedings would injure the nurse very much in her career, the Bench had decided to impose a fine of £3, or in default 31 days' imprisonment.

STATE REGISTRATION IN VICTORIA.

News comes from Melbourne that the Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is to "come on almost immediately." The Minister of Health, Mr. J. Drysdale Brown, has gone over the proposed draft with a sub-committee of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, and our correspondent writes that the nurses have every reason to congratulate themselves upon the Bill which embodies mainly the proposals of the Draft Bill.

On the Governing Board suggested, the representation of medical practitioners and nurses is about equal. The Minister of Health does not anticipate any difficulty, as the nurses; the medical profession, and the public all consider State Registration of Nurses imperative.

Under the Bill it will, of course, be necessary to admit to Registration during a period of grace, women who would not be eligible for registration under the system in force under the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association. But the nurses realize that this is a necessity, so that no injustice may be done, and that it is well worth while, in order to gain the blessing and safeguard of State Registration for those who will carry on the tradition and work of the nursing profession in the years to come when they are laid aside.

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HISTORY.

Now that trained nurses from the Commonwealth of Australia are working in this country and elsewhere for the sick and wounded, the following historical review, of which the facts are taken from Miss Dock's "History of Nursing," are of much interest:—

"A hundred years ago, in October of 1811, the first hospital erected on Australian soil was opened for the reception of patients. With the Sydney Infirmary (now Hospital) the history of nursing in Australia begins." In Australia, as in so many other countries, we find Miss Nightingale's influence predominant at the outset. In 1868 a training school was established at the Sydney Hospital, and, at the request of Sir Henry Parkes, Miss Nightingale selected the Lady Superintendent, Miss Lucy Osburn, as well as four other Nightingale nurses for work in the colony. That the early Nightingale nurses were a remarkable group of women is emphasised afresh by every recollection of them. The *Australasian Nurses' Journal* says that in 1911 two Australian nurses were still living who had been trained under Miss Osburn, and one said of her "She was an exceptional woman, well-read, having an absolute fascination of manner, and an indomitable will. She looked upon nursing as the highest employment a woman could take up. . . . To her it was a holy mission and should be entered into in a spirit of devotion."

The five nursing missionaries were within four years scattered over Australia doing pioneer work in new hospitals. Shortly afterwards five more Nightingale nurses were brought out by the Tasmanian Government, and set to work in Hobart and Launceston, where training schools were in time established. "Few of these nurses kept long to their original centre, their services being requisitioned by the new hospitals springing up all over the continent. It was therefore the personal work and influence of the Nightingale nurses that began organized nursing, and subsequently organized training schools in Australia."

The first Matron of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, was Miss Haldane Turriff; one of the first Sisters at the Sydney Hospital and a Nightingale nurse. The second, Miss M. D. Farquharson, also an English nurse, by whom the course of training was lengthened to three years.

At the Melbourne Hospital, though the training school was founded by Miss I. J. Rathie, Miss Farquharson, who succeeded her, was the

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