

will rest, in addition to all the sweet associations which you will make here for the rest of your lives, you can receive a higher vision than any, perhaps, that has ever controlled your actions, and so go back to your tasks, wherever those tasks may be, resolved that you will not be disobedient to that heavenly vision"?

The Dean had just been listening to a paper by Miss Mary S. Gardner, R.N., President of the National Organisation of Public Health Nursing. She was not able to be present, and her paper was read by Miss Crandall.

Here are the closing words of her excellent paper:—

"It is for us so to meet the responsibilities of our day as to open ever wider opportunities to those who follow us, caring little whether we ourselves are permitted to see the results of our labours, and nothing at all whether such results bring us personal credit. Only in this way, in true humbleness of spirit yet with the pride born of consciousness of the power of opportunity, shall we be worthy to place our gift with those of others on the altar of service, so gaining the blessing of strength which comes of united effort."

A new development of work in connection with nursing organisation in the United States is, said Miss Kent, the National Bureau of Legislation and Information, which holds a watching brief over legislation. Each member of the Committee has certain States assigned to her.

Summing up her impressions of her visit, Miss Kent said she was much impressed with the wonderful organisation of American nurses, who achieved because they aspired. It was only thirteen years ago since they began to work for State Registration, and now it was in force in forty-two States. American nurses were now capable of anything.

It did not make her envious. That would be quite contrary to the spirit and comradeship of internationalism, but it did make her ache to think how long Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and others had been working, and nurses in the United Kingdom had been asking, for legal status, and still there was no Act on the Statute Book.

WELCOME HELP.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with thanks the following donations: Miss A. E. Hulme, £5; Miss B. Kent, £5; Miss B. Cutler, £1 1s.; Miss M. Heather Bigg, 15s.; Miss Bryson, 10s.; Mrs. Myers, 10s.; Mrs. Shuter, 10s.; Anon., 5s.; and Miss E. Farrington, 2s. 6d.

The anonymous donor of 5s. who kindly subscribes herself "One of your admirers," writes:—"I am sure many of us are grateful to Miss Lee for expressing our views so well, unfortunately few of us have the power of speech or the gift of writing, but for us remains the gift of money, to help those who can to fight for us.

"I enclose 5s. as a small contribution to the war-chest."

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION IN AUSTRALIA.

It is evident that efforts are being made to assume that the Scheme outlined by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, for the organization of the Nursing Profession, is similar to the Voluntary System of Nurses' Registration which is in force in Australia. Thus we read in the last issue of the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*:—

"Pending a possible State measure, is a voluntary scheme serviceable? Such a proposal is being made to all the large training schools under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society.

"A voluntary combination of training schools to form a Nursing College, with power to arrange curricula, hold examinations, and grant certificates.

"Australia has had for years such a system, which, being loyally supported, has become so strong that it is almost as powerful as law. Australia is now seeking State Registration, but the voluntary system has led the way and done useful work for years."

The two schemes have nothing in common, for that which has been inaugurated with so much success in Australia was established by the nurses themselves with the help of the medical profession, through their professional organizations. The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association, and the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, first organized the nurses in the various States of the Commonwealth, and defined nursing standards, and then through the influence they were able to bring to bear, secured the establishment of a minimum curriculum, followed by examinations, established by the two Associations, and the recognition of only such training schools as conformed to the standard they imposed.

There is no similarity between such a scheme and the proposal that lay governors of hospitals shall be the preponderating factor in determining standards, appointing examiners, giving a certificate of efficiency, and exempting their own training schools from conforming to independent tests of efficiency. Hospital authorities in Australia are to be congratulated on the sensible way they co-operate with the nursing profession. But even so nurses in Australia, as in other parts of the world, are working to secure legal registration, and indeed, in Victoria, seem nearing the attainment of their goal. The last news to hand is that the Nurses' Registration Bill was being considered in Committee by the Legislative Council, on the 1st of last month, and any day we may open our morning paper to find that the Bill has been placed on the Statute Book.

The opening of the Empire Nurses' Home at Cairo at the beginning of January was quite an event in the nursing and social world. Contributions towards the furnishing and up-keep are still required.

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