

## HOME RULE FOR IRISH NURSES.

Miss Eddison, Lady Superintendent of the City of Dublin Hospital (trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London), and Miss Reed, Ivanhoe Nursing Home (trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London), made a formal protest, because notice of the Resolution was not on the Agenda. Both ladies are active anti-registrationists.

The situation in Dublin needs explanation.

The Irish Nurses' Association has, on numberless occasions, given expression, by resolution, to its demand for State Registration. When, owing to very undesirable social influence in high quarters, the Irish nurses were eliminated from Lord Amptill's Bill—passed by the House of Lords in 1908—the Irish nurses rose in their wrath, and agitated so successfully that they demanded restoration with the power of the whole Irish National party behind them, and through the good offices of Lord Ashbourne, who supported their demand in the Lords, they were included with English and Scottish nurses in the benefits of the Bill.

Again, in 1910, when all the national nurses' and doctors' societies in the United Kingdom supporting legislation affiliated, and by delegation formed the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Irish Nurses' Association was, of course, one of the eight societies which combined, and its delegates took part in drafting the Bill as it stands, and which applies to Irish nurses.

At the very representative Nursing Congress held in Dublin in 1913, a vote supporting State Registration was passed by a majority of 100 to 1, and would have been unanimous but for the opposition of a few Matrons trained in London. As lately as October, 1915, the official delegates of the Irish Nurses' Association were directed to vote in support of State Registration, when at the meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, held in London, a resolution in support of the Bill was passed with a few dissentients—amongst them Miss Shuter (Ivanhoe Nursing Home, Dublin, trained at St. Thomas's Hospital), who spoke and voted against the resolution, although she was not an official delegate on the National Council, and was absolutely out of order in taking part in the proceedings!

Now we find this little St. Thomas' group of Matrons in Dublin attempting to override the considered official policy of the Irish Nurses' Association. Such a position is, in our opinion, totally indefensible, and we advise Irish nurses to make it quite plain to this small

anti-registration minority that if they are not in favour of the avowed policy of the Association, they can either cease to be members, or they must bow to the conscientious convictions of the overwhelming majority.

## MEETING AT CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.

Miss Heather-Bigg, the Matron, is a well-known supporter of the State Registration Movement. By her wish, at this time of crisis, a meeting of the nurses was held in their sitting-room, and Miss Annie Hulme and Miss Beatrice Kent were invited to address them upon the subject. Previous to the meeting, tea and coffee and light refreshments were served in the lounge, and a very enjoyable half-hour was spent chatting with the nurses and their genial Matron, who gave the opening address. She clearly set forth the aims and objects of the Movement, and the necessity of understanding and taking part in it, more especially at the present time, when a new and dangerous opposition scheme was being promoted.

The privileged guests each spoke of the urgent necessity of the overdue reform, and one of them gave a short account of the history of State Registration in this country, and referred to the rapid progress which is being made in the higher education of nurses, and in their ethical standards in America, where Registration laws are in force in forty-two of the States. The Stanley Scheme was explained, and the most dangerous clauses pointed out. It is always a pleasure and privilege to address an attentive and interested audience, and we feel sure that the nurses of this hospital, having the example of their Matron, will soon throw themselves heartily into this good cause, which means so precious a thing as their professional liberty.

## IN SUPPORT OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, acknowledges with thanks the following donations: Miss Christina Forrest, £1 1s.; Miss H. Barton, 10s.; Miss E. M. Musson, 10s.; Miss E. M. Roberts, 5s.; Miss A. Schuller, 5s.; Mrs. M. Ayres Lucas, 2s. 6d.; Miss E. M. Ambrose, 2s.; Miss G. Hare, 2s.; Miss E. S. Sills, 1s.

The President begs to thank those members of the Society who have paid their subscriptions for the current year, and hopes that all members will send their annual subscription (1s.) as soon as possible. They should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

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