

Trained Nurses, besides being a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. A kind invitation to lecture to her nurses on this all-important subject, and to spend the night, was gladly accepted by Miss Beatrice Kent, for the evening of the 17th inst. In the handsome recreation hall of the almost new Nurses' Home the meeting took place. Besides a good gathering of nurses, the following ladies were present: Miss March, County Superintendent of District Nurses; Miss Graham, District Superintendent; Miss Glass, Matron of the Fever Hospital; Miss Birdman, Matron of Strathclyde House; Mrs. James Carr, Mrs. Benwen, and Miss Lord, from the Blencathra Sanatorium, Threlkeld, near Penrith, several miles away. Miss Parker occupied the chair, and in introducing the speaker, she told the audience in no uncertain terms of her great interest and belief in the cause of legal status for nurses. As it is, for obvious reasons, not possible to speak of State Registration or legal status without also speaking of the College of Nursing, Ltd., established on a voluntary basis, the lecturer gave a brief explanation of that also. It was a pleasure and a privilege—as she assured her audience—to address them upon a matter of such vital importance as the *professional organization* of nursing. She carefully emphasized this point, in contradistinction to lay control. With a few kind words from the chair, the meeting terminated. Several applied for membership of the Society for State Registration.

The Hospital is one of those interesting combinations of the old and the new, that is to say structurally; it goes without saying that treatment, training and equipment are modern and efficient. The children's ward, with its pretty decoration of blue tiles representing nursery rhymes, running all round the walls, is very fascinating to adults, what must it be to the little ones who occupy it?

We think it would serve a good purpose if those interested in organizing military hospitals would visit the hospitals where our wounded are nursed. They would see the "splendid work of the women," of which we hear so much, as it is shown in skilled nursing by *fully trained women*, under the supervision of an experienced trained nurse and organizer—the Matron.

LET US HOPE SO TOO.

Miss L. L. Dock remarks in the *American Journal of Nursing*: "Thanks to the active, prompt work of organized nurses in Great Britain, the question of registration on a sound basis is to be threshed out at a co-ordinated meeting, where all those of many views will meet. Let us hope it will be settled honourably. It would be too black a piece of ingratitude if the English public at this moment should deal the trained, professional, organized nurses of their country a stab in the back."

A LEAFLET FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

So many matrons and nurses have applied to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses for a Leaflet stating in the simplest language just what the Nurses' Registration Bill is, and what it proposes to do, that the following explanation has been drafted, and can be procured, free of cost, from the Hon. Secretary of the Society at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. We hope Matrons and Superintendents will order copies, and be good enough to place them on the Hospital Notice Board, and distribute them amongst the members of the nursing staff.

A BILL FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DOES IT PROPOSE TO DO?

- (A) A Bill in this sense means a Paper containing a Statement of particulars to go before Parliament, and to be passed into law.
- (B) The Bill stands for the professional liberty of Trained Nurses. In other words, it is a Charter of Liberty. We might put it into Latin and call it the Magna Charta, or *great Charter of the Profession of Nursing*.
- (C) A Charter is an instrument in writing from the Sovereign Power of the State or Country, guaranteeing rights and privileges.
This is what the Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses—or Charter—will do for us.
- (D) The Bill is a Charter of Liberty, because:—
It provides for a Council of Management—the General Nursing Council—on to which all Registered Nurses will have power to *elect* direct representatives.
In other words, Registered Nurses will have effective representation on their Governing Body. This is called *democratic* Government. The word *democratic* comes from the Greek word *demos*, meaning the people. It is the only right and fair form of Government for a Profession as for a Country. This is what is meant by the liberty or freedom of the Nursing Profession.
- (E) There is also a higher significance to the word *freedom*. It has a spiritual aspect. Freedom means *opportunity*. When we nurses obtain our professional freedom through State Registration, we shall have great opportunities for enlarging our sphere of usefulness to the sick, and to the community, which we do not now possess.
- (F) This Bill has been before the House of Commons for the past 12 years. It is strongly supported by Members of both Houses of Parliament, by the Medical Profession and by the Nursing Profession. Moreover it has

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