

been pronounced by experts to be "an excellent Bill."

- (g) State Registration will confer great dignity upon the Profession of Nursing, and an honourable distinction upon each nurse who qualifies to become a "Registered Nurse."
- (h) When a Nurse receives the title of "Registered Nurse" under an Act of Parliament she receives a protected title. American Nurses and the Nurses in our Colonies who are registered are proud to write their legal title after their names, and so shall we be. We have seen that the College of Nursing, Ltd., expressly declares in its Constitution that no titles or diplomas will be given. Which will you choose? Voluntary Registration with no advantage, or State Registration and a protected title?
- (i) State Registration will secure other professional advantages. Through reciprocity provided in Nurses' Registration Acts, Registered Nurses will be free to work without further examinations throughout the British Empire.

#### WHAT IS THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL GOING TO DO FOR NURSES?

##### *Some of the Provisions in Brief.*

1. It will give legal status to Trained Nurses.
2. It will define a uniform curriculum (or course of training) during—
3. A three years' hospital training completed by—
4. A central examination.

##### *The above are the four cardinal points or principles of the Bill.*

5. It will safeguard the Sick against untrained Nurses posing as trained Nurses.
6. It will safeguard trained Nurses against unfair competition with untrained Nurses.
7. It will give a guarantee to the Public, that a Registered Nurse is a person who has had a professional training, and passed a State Examination, which qualifies her to nurse the Sick. The examination will not be too difficult for any nurse to pass because she will, during training, have been systematically prepared for it. Nurses already trained and certificated, will not be required to pass the State Examination during the three years' term of grace after the Act comes into force, unless they wish to do so.
8. State Registration is a great Cause and the Bill is a great Charter. To be worthy to participate in its benefits, it is the duty of every Nurse to take part in getting it passed into law.
9. Nurses can help in four ways, namely:
  - (A) They can become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, support its policy, and obtain financial support for its work.
  - (B) They can subscribe regularly to the *British Journal of Nursing*, which is the only weekly organ which supports

State Registration. It is a Professional Journal controlled by trained nurses, and promotes their best interests.

- (c) They can try to interest other Nurses in the Cause of State Registration.
- (d) They can try to secure the active interest of the medical profession and Members of Parliament in support of the Bill.

## NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF NURSES.

BY A MEMBER OF THE N.U.T.N.

Wake up, England! and, above all, wake up, Nurses! The precious moments are slipping by so fast that the urgent work of re-organising the nursing profession will be undertaken by lay people if the nurses have not got enough initiative and endurance to do it for themselves. What is wanted is a national union of trained nurses. There is a National Union of Trained Nurses. It is truly *national*, because it is an organisation which every nurse in the nation could join, being a broad-minded and democratic body without fear or favour, knowing neither party nor creed, standing for nothing less than the very highest ideals of which the profession is capable. It is a *Union*, because alone we can do nothing; together, there is nothing so high that we cannot aspire to it. It is a union of *Trained Nurses*, because we believe most emphatically that the dignity of our profession demands self-government. The National Union of Trained Nurses is the youngest of the organised societies of trained nurses, but differs from the others by the provision of local branches which all classes and ranks of nurses can join. At first (like any other normal healthy baby) it rather felt its way, holding on to supports, making many mistakes and profiting by sad experience. Then the child began to grow up, to stand on its own feet, to formulate a policy. It declared at the Council Meeting, in 1914, and re-iterated at the Council of 1915, that the governance of the Union is in the hands of the full member (*i.e.*, the fully trained nurse). The referendum taken in June, 1915, on State Registration showed an overwhelming proportion of votes in favour of it. Now the Union shows signs of reaching maturity. At the Council Meeting held on April 27th, 1916, five representatives were appointed on to the Central Committee for State Registration, and the following principles were laid down as the objects for which the representatives would work:—

(1) State Registration of Trained Nurses and the protected title of "registered nurse." (2) An elected governing body. (3) One central examination.

The Union hopes to do great things, but it is at present a small society numbering little over 2,000 members. There are visions before it of wide fields of activity in the development and progress of the nursing profession—if *only* all the nurses who share these aspirations would join it. "United we stand, divided we fall."

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