

## THE REGISTRATION OF COTTAGE NURSES.

### "A TURN FOR NURSING."

The Countess of Gainsborough presided at the meeting held at Denison House of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association on June 14th. As this JOURNAL, which is the State Registration Organ, was not invited to send a representative we are unable to give a full report. A lady present writes: "Lady Gainsborough was in the Chair and Miss B. Broadwood, the Hon. Secretary and Director of the Cottage Benefit Nursing Association, gave a short sketch of the beginnings of the Nursing College. She said Mr. Stanley had wished that there should be a wide basis of registration so as to include various kinds of nurses, and had expressed this view in an interview with her. Now the College wished to have a Bill rushed through Parliament as a war measure which would make it possible for only the highly and specially trained nurse to be registered, and would exclude their Association's efficient nurses, who had three or four years' training (work in cottages.—ED.) and looked after a class of people who had never been systematically nursed before. She thought such a Bill ought not to be rushed through and that legislation should be based on the Founder's wishes (i.e., on a broad basis.) She gave a full description of the so-called training and work of Cottage Nurses, incidentally mentioning that nursing is not a profession, but a service, because nurses are not asked to give professional advice, but simply to carry out the orders of the doctor, and that therefore they should have no voice in the organisation of their Training Schools. She said that if the Nursing College *did* try to bring in the proposed Bill her Association and its friends would fight against the College.

Miss F. C. Joseph explained her Scheme for the Registration of Nurses in classes, Hospital Nurses, Village District Nurses, Mental Nurses, Tuberculosis Nurses and so on, to be tested by outside Examination such as is held for Midwives and Masseuses. Her arguments appeared fallacious, and the analogy between midwives and masseuses untenable because they are not registered in classes, but in both instances must conform to a general minimum of technical and theoretical knowledge before being examined and registered, just as trained nurses wish to do.

The Chairman and other speakers agreed with Miss Joseph that full training was not necessary for registration, the former said that in 25 years of experience of nursing in the country she had never known a case of a serious illness or of a death which was due to the want of training in a nurse. She said that examinations were made too much of as a test of a nurse's skill.

Lady Raleigh, President of the Essex County Midwifery and Cottage Nursing Association, said that even Miss Joseph's scheme had too many examinations (indeed from the schedule it appeared

all examinations), a 'turn for nursing' was better than being able to pass examinations. No resolution was submitted, and no questions were asked."

The poor pay of the workers attached to many Cottage Nursing centres, and the relatively high fees charged for their services, is a point in nursing economics which needs publicity, and which Trade Unions and the Labour Party might do well to look into.

## THE REGISTRATION OF SPECIALISTS.

### THE DEPRECIATION OF TRAINED NURSING STANDARDS.

Under the heading of "The Registration of Specialists" we referred in our issue of June 3rd, to the scheme for the registration of all types of nurses, hospital trained and otherwise, as apart from those who are efficiently trained and therefore skilled workers, put forward by Miss F. C. Joseph, Hon. Secretary of the Public Health Committee of the National Union of Women Workers at its meeting in April, and from which a Deputation was ultimately appointed to interview the Hon. Arthur Stanley of the College of Nursing to demand the registration of Cottage nurses and others.

We also reported that a meeting would be held on June 14th, by invitation of Miss Broadwood of the Cottage Benefit Association, when Miss Joseph would explain her scheme. We are now informed that the latter meeting had no connection with the Public Health Committee of the N.U.W.W. and that Miss Joseph had been invited to attend in her private capacity and not as Hon. Secretary of the Committee, as might have been supposed by our notice. In this connection, as the National Council of Trained Nurses, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and the National Union of Trained Nurses, are all represented on the Public Health Committee of the N.U.W.W. by trained Nurses, we hope for the future, should nursing questions be under discussion, that no deputation will be formed to represent its views which excludes the direct representation of professional opinion, as was done on the occasion referred to. Surely one benefit of co-operation amongst women workers is to obtain expert information concerning their work and lives in relation to social order, so that, when under discussion, their interests shall receive intelligent consideration. This aspect of the case appears to have been entirely ignored by the Hon. Secretary of the Public Health Committee of the N.U.W.W. in pushing her own views concerning nursing affairs, which are in direct opposition to those formed by the members of the nursing profession generally.

State Registration is designed to provide skilled and competent care for the public of all classes in sickness. This is impossible without definite and prolonged training for both doctors and nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)