

## THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

Pending negotiations between the representatives of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses and the representatives of the College of Nursing we think it better not to publish the draft Bill as it has already been considerably amended, as the delegates come nearer and nearer to agreement.

At the meeting of the Central Committee held on June 22nd, amendments approved by the delegates were accepted, and several resolutions adopted for further negotiations, which we have reason to believe will prove acceptable to the College advisers. After one more conference the Central Committee will meet to receive a final report, after which the nursing world will be kept no longer in suspense. The Bill, as agreed should then appear in print, so that its provisions may be made widely known. An agreed Bill means concessions on both sides, but those who have worked so loyally for State Registration for so many years may rest assured that the provisions of any Bill accepted by their Central Committee will provide for a wide measure of justice to the profession at large. Once accepted, we hope the members of the affiliated societies will work with devotion and singleness of purpose to have the Bill made law.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL.

No hospital in the world has a finer site than St. Thomas' Hospital, on the Embankment, with the stately river flowing under its terraces, the Houses of Parliament immediately opposite, Lambeth Palace with its picturesque buildings and historical associations as a near neighbour, and eastward the curve of the river with the dome of St. Paul's dominating the picture.

It would not now be easy to find a better plan for a hospital than that designed in accordance with the views of the Lady of the Lamp, whose personality dominates the hospital: with its central corridor connecting all departments, its blocks of wards at right angles to this corridor, with wide spaces of turf between; the dual advantage of this arrangement being that the wards get the maximum amount of sunshine and air, and further should an epidemic break out in any block it can be isolated from the rest of the building.

Just now a whole Territorial Hospital of 520 beds is tucked away at St. Thomas—a hospital within a hospital—and still there seems room and to spare. The Victoria Ward, one of the children's wards, and others in the hospital proper have been given up to form part of this unit, but the main part consists of huts erected in the spaces between the wards; wide, with a division up the middle, they accommodate 60 to

80 patients. The prevailing note is green, and at the further end are balconies on to which the patients can be wheeled and enjoy the view and the ozone-laden breezes blowing off the river. It is interesting to see in the wards the beautiful needlework done by some of the wounded men—regimental badges in colours, and other designs on canvas. Later on there is to be an exhibition of this. At the entrance to the huts are the kitchens, linen and other stores, everything in fact that a well-found hospital can need. One of the wards in the hospital proper is used as an officers' ward. The Matron of the Territorial Hospital is Miss E. M. Vezey, who was trained and a Sister at St. Thomas' Hospital, afterwards going to the General Infirmary, Salisbury, as Matron. There are a certain proportion of voluntary aid workers in the wards, but no regular probationers, as work in the Territorial Hospital does not in the opinion of Miss Lloyd Still, the Matron of St. Thomas' Hospital, fit in with the scheme of training.

One of the newer departments at St. Thomas' is the Maternity Department, which is an approved training school for midwives; and the sight of this spotless ward, with its long row of beds (with cots attached), under the vigilant care of a highly-trained Sister, brings home to one the important part played by members of the nursing profession in the application of the principles of asepsis. It is only by a thorough grasp of these principles and their conscientious and daily application, that it is possible to nurse maternity patients together in one ward without disaster. It will be remembered how, years ago, hospital after hospital was forced to close its maternity wards because of the terrible mortality from puerperal fevers which attacked the patients.

All that is altered now, because medicine and nursing, hand-in-hand, bar the door in the face of death, each impotent without the other, to hold the fort which held by both is impregnable.

It is a time-honoured rule at St. Thomas' that every ward shall each year be emptied for a week, thus giving time for a thorough cleaning, when every mattress is re-made and baked, and everything overhauled and made fresh and clean as a new pin before patients are again admitted.

The Matron of the Hospital, Miss Lloyd Still, is keenly interested in nursing education. The course in the preliminary training school, established during the term of office of her predecessor, extends over nine weeks; for the first two months that the probationers work in the wards they have no classes on theory, then they pass under the care of the Sister Tutor—whose duties are entirely confined to those of a teacher. She instructs the probationers, gives them "grinds" on the lectures they receive—at which she is present—and she has a most wonderful array of models to aid her in her work, including one of the entire human body in which all the organs, arteries, veins, nerves, muscles, &c., are beautifully shown. The appointment is not only an interesting but a well-paid one—as it should be.

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