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EDITORIAL.

HOW WE STAND IN 1917. THE REGISTRATION TRIANGLE.

For many years the Nursing Profession in the United Kingdom has been clearly divided into two parties, the State Registrationists and the Anti-State Registrationists. On the one side were the Matrons, Nurses, liberal-minded medical men, and public persons inspired by a keen sense of professional responsibility to the sick, who were united in their demand for the organization of nursing education by the State, and statutory registration by an independent body of professional experts, a policy unceasingly supported by THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING alone; and on the other side was a body of laymen engaged in hospital management, controlling absolutely the Nursing Schools attached, large employers of women as probationers and trained nurses, and associated with them their consultant medical staffs and Matrons, these persons opposed State Registration by every means in their power, by unwritten pressure within the institutions under their control, through the very highest social influence, through political influence as voters, by the systematic blocking of every Nurses' Registration Bill, by procuring the silence of the London press, and by widely distributed signed manifestoes to the general public in which they stated their belief that:—"Any system of State Registration would be detrimental to the Public, and harmful to the best Nurses themselves."

The anti-registration propaganda was thundered forth through the organs in the press controlled by that very unchivalrous knight, Sir Henry Burdett, who anathematised with shameless discourtesy the women who dared to form their own

professional opinions, and also had the courage to fight for them.

Thus in January, 1916, the two parties stood in open antagonism, a clear economic issue between them—Who is to govern the Nursing Profession, the persons who compose it, or those who employ them?

January, 1917, finds apparently an extraordinary kaleidoscopic change, which is less real than it appears. Instead of two parties with a straight issue between them, we find three, and it is the third line in the registration triangle which requires our very serious consideration.

THE PARTIES AND THEIR POLICIES.

THE PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONISTS.

(1) The professional registrationists, which includes the members of the Self-Governing Nurses' Organisations, and the British Medical Association, who stand firmly for the principles for which they have worked so long and so devotedly, *i.e.* State organisation to provide (1) An independent Governing Body on which trained nurses have direct and adequate representation from the inception of the Act, (2) Central examination, (3) State Registration.

THE ANTI-REGISTRATIONISTS.

(2) The Anti-Registrationists, led by Lord Knutsford and Miss Eva Luckes of the London Hospital, who still oppose any form of self-government and legal status for trained nurses. From their most recent "Notice" these people are frankly reactionary, and mean, as long as Parliament permits, to exercise autocratic control over their own employees, and to prevent any State protection for the employees of others. Here anyway we have a determined economic policy, and as it is one which will be swept away in the maelstrom

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