

## QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### TRAINED NURSES STATE REGISTRATION.

On Wednesday 7th March, the following questions were put:—

Mr. MacCallum Scott asked the Prime Minister whether, before any Bill for the State Registration of trained nurses is introduced, an opportunity will be given to the organised societies of nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland to make representations to the Government.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Hayes Fisher) said: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked me to reply to this question. Full consideration will be given to any representations made by organized societies of nurses before the Government introduce any Bill for the registration of nurses.

Mr. Dundas White asked: Will they be given an opportunity of presenting their views personally by deputation?

Mr. Hayes Fisher replied: I will consider that.

Mr. Rendall said: May I ask whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill of this kind?

Mr. Hayes Fisher said in reply: That is a matter that is still undergoing consideration.

### VOX POPULI.

From which questions and replies, though the latter are somewhat non-committal, the organised nurses' societies, the members of which have worked unceasingly for State Registration for so many years—and paid thousands of pounds in promoting the reform—may take heart of grace.

1. The Prime Minister has promised through the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board that before any Bill for the State Registration of Nurses is introduced by the Government, consideration shall be given to the representations of the organized nurses in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

2. That the Government has under consideration the intention of introducing a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses.

It is the duty therefore of every member of every organized nurses' society which includes State Registration as a plank in its policy to realise her own personal responsibility in this important matter. There must be no shirking of professional responsibility now. Each member can do her duty in the following manner:—

1. She can write the very day she reads this report to the President, Local Government Board, Whitehall, London, S.W., and ask him to be good enough to receive a Deputation when officially petitioned to do so, of representatives of the organized Nurses' Societies to place before him their considered opinion on the question of State Registration of Nurses.

2. She can also write to Members of Parliament and invite their sympathy for the principle of direct representation of the nurses on any Governing Body set up by a Nurses' Registration Act—WHICH IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS REGISTERED NURSES WILL HAVE TO OBEY—as provided in the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses in charge of Major Chapple, M.P.

Don't let nurses delude themselves that they will get a just Bill, unless they work for it. It is no use consoling themselves with the fallacy that the Legislature or the public are palpitating with a desire to benefit them as a class. It is quite otherwise. Never were unblushing exploiters so determined to delude and keep them profitable. By untiring vigilance the profession has been saved from many pi-falls—the Higher Education Scheme, the Directory Bill, the College of Nursing Limited, the effect of which would have been to deprive them of personal liberty and professional independence. We have got to resist now any Bill drafted by employers assuming autocratic powers, and denying to the workers adequate power for their own protection, and we have got to resist with every ounce of energy we possess—or be crushed under the relentless heel of those who for a quarter of a century have denied to trained nurses the right to organize, and think and act for themselves,—and who have not hesitated to support a form of intimidation through the commercial nursing press which is a disgrace to any civilized country—a form of intimidation we shall continue to defy in the future, as we have done in the past.

It is up to the organized nurses to claim a hearing from the Government before it attempts to legislate for them. If we are up and doing with British pluck, energy, and tenacity of purpose, the victory will be ours.

The Prime Minister comes of the people—it is a very lovely people—let him hear the voice of the people and give heed to it.

Personally we believe his heart is "right there."

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.S.R. was held on Thursday, 8th inst. New members were elected and further work in support of a just Bill was planned.

### FOR A JUST BILL.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses gratefully acknowledges the following donations:—Miss L. A. Morgan, 10s.; Miss F. E. Marquardt, 10s.; Miss E. Ross, 5s.; Miss V. Thurstan, 5s.; Miss M. Burr, 5s.; Miss E. Farrington, 2s. 2d.; Miss E. Busted, 2s. 2d.; Miss M. E. Chesters, 2s.; Miss C. Heron, 2s.

We are glad to note a very keen interest in this question. Those who wish to join the Society can obtain forms from the Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1.

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