

House realizing that to be of value a Directory must be based upon a Register, threw out the Nurses' Directory Bill and passed Lord Ampthill's Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. Why waste time in endeavouring to resuscitate a corpse which has long since received decent burial?

2nd. *To secure an Uniform Curriculum of Training.*

With this object the writers also express disagreement. "The Nurses' ranks," they assert, "are filled—and more satisfactorily filled by accepting the right sort of woman from all social classes than by trying to eliminate all who cannot be called highly educated, or who cannot pass a Central Examination."

There is no intention on the part of the promoters of State Registration to discriminate against any class. The intention is that candidates for training shall possess sufficient intelligence and education to enable them to assimilate such practical and theoretical instruction as shall enable them to become safe attendants upon the sick, and that they shall give proof to a central and unbiased authority of having attained that standard.

Lord Knutsford and Miss Lückes once more voice their objection to "State interference," which has been at the root of much of the opposition to State Registration. "Each Hospital," they say, "should be allowed to train its Nurses as it finds it can best do so, and should not be interfered with in this by people who do not know its system from inside."

The day of absolute power of employers in determining the conditions of training and employment of those in their service has passed, and rightly, in almost every trade and profession, the State safeguarding the interests of the employees—and the unlimited power of hospital authorities must cease also.

In regard to the small hospitals, far from "increasing the difficulties they already find in obtaining nurses," we are of opinion that, in affiliation with the larger hospitals, they would find themselves in a better position than ever before.

3rd. *To limit the entrance to the Nursing Profession to one Portal, i.e., the passing of a Central Examination under the auspices of the College, for candidates who have complied with such preliminary conditions as the Council of the College deem it desirable to insist upon.*

"If," say Lord Knutsford and Miss Lückes, "the College of Nursing obtains any real measure of success—which yet remains to be proved, for its achievements cannot be measured by its Prospectus or Articles of Association—the Training Schools, by the importance thus attached to Examinations and to theoretical attainments generally, will tend to produce pseudo-scientific Nurses, instead of practical, skilful, unselfish and devoted Nurses. The gradual loss of the latter would be a sad deprivation for the sick and suffering."

So it would; but, although we have had reason to criticise strongly the attempted usurpation by the College of Nursing of the disciplinary functions of the Governing Body for trained nurses without their consent, as well as the definition and maintenance of educational standards for nurses, we are of opinion that a system of higher education for nurses, if carried into effect, would not have the results anticipated by the Chairman and Matron of the London Hospital.

If State Registration is carried out with the help of trained nurses, they will lay much more stress on a high standard of practical work than lay committees have done. We deny that ignorant and stupid women have the monopoly of all the nursing virtues.

POOR LAW MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

Miss Barton, President P.L.M.A., writes that the Association is trying to organize meetings in the provinces to explain especially to Poor Law Nurses about the College of Nursing, and that Miss Rundle would attend and speak and answer questions. Poor Law Matrons wishing to get up meetings should write either to Miss Barton or Miss Alsop, Kensington Infirmary.

We may add that it is the duty of anyone advocating the College scheme to place the draft Bye-Laws of the proposed Royal British College of Nursing before the audience and explain (1) Why eight members of the Council can expel a nurse from membership, (2) Why the laity are eligible, as members, to vote without paying any fee, as the nurses do, for the upkeep of the Corporation; and (3) Why 100 members are compelled to get one-fourth of the Council to sign their requisition for a Special Meeting when the President, and also the Council of forty-five may "order" such a meeting at will. Full information should also be given concerning the "private contract" entered into between the R.B.N.A. Executive and the Hon. Officers of the College.

We are informed by nurses who have attended meetings in support of the College that such vital points are never mentioned.

PRESENTATION.

A very large and representative gathering of friends of Miss K. V. Macintyre, late Matron of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, took place recently at the Empress Hall, Wigan, when the Chairman of the Board of Management (Mr. A. M. Lamb, J.P.), members of the Board, and of the medical and nursing staffs met to express to Miss Macintyre the respect and affection in which she is held and to offer her tangible evidence of their regard. The proceedings were of an informal character, but most friendly and cordial. The Rev. W. Kingsbury voiced the appreciation of those present of Miss Macintyre's valuable work for the Infirmary for the last 26 years, specially referring to her success as head of the nurse

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