

IN SUPPORT OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with thanks the following donations: The Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, £5; Miss B. Kent, £5; Miss Janet Stewart (in memory of my dear Sister, Isla Stewart), £2 2s.; Miss G. A. Rogers, 10s.; Miss Mary Burr, 5s.; Miss B. S. Whitehouse, 5s.; Miss M. C. Morgan, R.N.S., 5s.; Miss Byard, 2s. 6d.; and Miss M. Shank, 2s. 6d. The first Nurses' Registration Bill was drafted by this Society and introduced into the House of Commons in 1904, and through the efforts of its members this Bill was passed in the House of Lords in 1908. Every trained nurse should become a member and help to have the Bill made law. Forms of application can be had from the Hon. Secretary, Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Annual subscription, 1s. The Hon. Secretary will also be pleased to receive subscriptions from old members.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

"IRISH BULLS."

LECTURE BY SIR EDWARD SULLIVAN.

The times in which we live being particularly sad and bad, it is desirable, nay, imperatively necessary, if we are to keep sane, that we should give our minds a little recreative pleasure from time to time. The above irresistible title attracted a number of nurses to the fifth of the series of lectures organised by the Royal British Nurses' Association, which took place at Chandos Street on March 7th. The chair was taken by Miss Thurston, Matron-in-Chief of New Zealand Expeditionary Force. In introducing the lecturer, Sir Edward Sullivan, she said it gave her great pleasure to do so, because the lives of nurses needed the stimulus of humour; it was good for them and their patients alike. The humorous face of Sir Edward, himself, undoubtedly, an Irishman—added zest and relish to his subject, and the audience showed their appreciation by continuous laughter. He commenced his lecture by the classification of bulls in the following order:—Class 1: When language is correct, but the words suggest a humorous contradiction; Class 2: When language is incorrect through thought outstripping diction; Class 3: Mixed metaphor—language and ideas confounded in blunder.

The word is of unknown origin; it was known in the fourteenth century, but later appears to have dropped out of use until Dean Swift revived it, and announced that he intended to write a book on "Irish Bulls and Blunders," but that book, said the lecturer, was never written. Others had however, been inspired to write upon the fascinating subject. Maria Edgeworth, writing in collaboration with her father, was the first to

produce a work on Irish bulls. Two others were specially mentioned: Macdonach's "Irish Life and Character" and "The Book of Bulls," by G. R. Neilson. Sir Edward gave innumerable illustrations of bulls, their authors being largely members of the House of Commons, both English and Irish. The following are samples:—Irish Member: "Ireland is swarming with absentee landlords." Another Irish Member: "As true a heart beats under the tunic of an Irishman as under the kilt of a Scotchman."

The following, showing the ready wit of the Irish poor, is too good to be omitted:—Lord and Lady Donnybrook were on one occasion talking to an old woman in whom they were interested, who told them that she had had a dream. Lord D.: "And what was the dream, Bridget?" Bridget: "I dreamt that your lordship gave me a pound of tobacco, and her ladyship gave me a pound of tea." Lord D. "Ah! but Bridget, I have you there, dreams always go by contrary." Bridget: "Shure, ye honour, you are always right, it may be that her ladyship gave me the pound of tobacco, and ye lordship gave me the pound of tea."

Sir Edward Sullivan explained that the difference between the Irish and the English bulls was that the former were more lively, and the latter more matter-of-fact.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, the meeting terminated. B. K.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED. MEETING, SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL, GREENWICH.

A Meeting in support of the College of Nursing, Ltd., was held at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, on Friday, March 1st. It was addressed by Miss Gibson, and it is good to note that this strong opponent to the principle of State Registration, and the consequent organisation of the Nursing Profession for so many years, has at last been converted to the policy of the progressives, and warmly advocated it. We do not follow her arguments, however, when she states that the College of Nursing, Ltd., is a democratic body, when all direct representation of the Nursing Profession has been rigorously excluded from the nominated Council by the matrons who largely compose it, nor whilst its Constitution permits this Council to remove the name of a nurse from the register "as the Council may in its discretion think proper."

This means autocratic rule with no power of appeal for the Nurse.

Moreover, regulations for registration have been defined and a Nurses' Bill drafted by this Council without any consultation with the Nursing Profession whatever, all the nurses have been required to do is to "join the College," pay a guinea and no further meddle therein. We cannot follow Miss Gibson's economic argument either when "she

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