

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL TO DATE.

It is very gratifying to the Central Committee which drafted the Nurses Registration Bill that it has been so largely approved in Standing Committee and so few amendments inserted, as it cannot be expected that Parliament will approve of every item inserted in a Private Member's Bill.

The fact that the President of the Local Government Board gave so much time to the consideration of the Bill is proof that he considers nurses' registration a necessary corollary to the Ministry of Health Bill—which indeed it is—and the principles incorporated in the Bill are just and orderly. First, we find national representation carefully conserved. Each of the four component divisions of the Kingdom are recognised and represented on the General Nursing Council—the Local Government Boards of England, and Wales, Scotland and Ireland are to be represented, the British Medical Association likewise, and the Nurses by defined numbers in each country, so that there will be a nucleus in each section for the organisation of Divisional Boards.

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL.

The Committee has recognised the right of the Nurses to the vote on their own governing body, and on both Councils the Nurse representatives are in the majority. Moreover, the Nurses' organisations affiliated in the Central Committee, which have worked, some of them, for a quarter of a century for this great national reform, have been given the representation which is their right, in spite of a determined attempt upon the part of the representatives of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to most unjustly exclude them from representation in their own Bill. The First Council is to have

two years, as asked for, in which to compile an independent electorate of nurses, so that none need be disfranchised, which would have resulted from the College of Nursing Bill—a measure designed to suppress, rather than encourage, the evolution of the Nursing Profession.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTERS.

We are, and always have been, strongly opposed to the registration of specialists other than Male and Mental Nurses, because all such registers

are unjust to the workers, and are merely advantageous to their hospital employers, and there is no more reason for nurse specialists without general training than for medical practitioners under like unsound conditions. The College of Nursing, Ltd., must be held responsible for the Register of Children's Nurses proposed by its representative and adopted by the Committee, as such a provision was made possible in Clause 4 of the Seventh Draft of the College Bill, we believe to placate the Federation of Children's Hospital Managers. This Clause provides for any number of special registers.

But such Registers will be short-lived for various reasons: (1) Before long the voluntary hospitals will be co-ordinated under State control, and (2) women will not enter any hospital for training where the work done, and experience gained, does not count towards a general curriculum which will qualify them for registration on the General Register, and thus provide for the promotion

and the highest remuneration in the profession. The registered nurse of the future is not going to be side-tracked for the benefit of special hospital managers. So we are not wasting regrets over the Children's Nurses' Register—it will arrange itself.

FINANCE.

Finance we know something about, and we own that a £2 2s. fee for registration, and £3 3s.



A TYPICAL "REGISTERED NURSE."

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