

## STATE REGISTRATION UP TO DATE.

The Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Central Committee, which passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons on March 28th, and has passed through the Standing Committee, was down for the Report Stage on Friday, May 9th, but, as we feared, it was not reached, owing to the fact that two Bills, one of a very contentious nature, were down ahead of it for Second Reading, and the whole time was taken up by the first Bill, which was talked out. Major Barnett has put down the Nurses' Registration Bill for Report, for first place on June 27th.

The galleries to which women are admitted were again crammed, a large number of nurses and hospital officials being present.

A long list of Amendments were down for consideration: (1) by Major Barnett, to improve the Bill in the nurses' interests; (2) by independent members, pushing the interests of the Children's Hospital Managers, and for increased representation in Wales; (3) by the College of Nursing, Ltd., whose representatives propose to disfranchise, professionally, trained nurses on their own Governing Body by substituting the word "Person" for "Nurse," so that not one seat is secured to the nurses on either the initial or permanent General Nursing Councils—a scandalous proposition that should rouse even the nurse members of the College to wake up if they do not wish to be governed entirely by the laity and hospital officials. We learn that Lieut.-Col. Raw, C.M.G., is no longer in charge of the College policy in the House of Commons, Mr. L. Lyle, Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, who is naturally in sympathy with the employers' point of view, having succeeded to the somewhat precarious position. It was Mr. Lyle who, in language more forcible than polite, termed the nurses who have promoted and paid for the State Registration campaign members of "high-sounding and senile bodies."

Presumably he considers the Nurse members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., equally "senile," as Section (11) of Clause 5 in the College Bill, providing that "of persons elected by the Nurses on the General Register to represent England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, five-sixths shall be nurses on the General Register," has been eliminated from the Bill introduced by the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital into the House of Lords. *We repeat not a seat on the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession is SECURED to the Nurses.*

If trained nurses permit this job—senile they are—and senile they must be written down. Anyway, the State Registrationists are out to expose this dangerous omission.

### A MEETING OF PROTEST.

A Public Meeting to Protest against the professional disfranchisement of the Nursing Profession, as provided in the College Bill now before the House of Lords, will be held on Friday, May 23rd, at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., at 5 p.m., when strong Resolutions will be proposed for the enlightenment of Parliament and the public on this serious situation—which, let us hope, may prevent any chance of the success of such unprincipled legislation.

The Meeting will be free to nurses, and we hope they will show that they realise the danger of the situation by attending in large numbers, and proving they are not so "senile" as they are imagined to be.

We hope the College Matrons will attend, and prove to the rank and file that they are not supporting this attack on their liberty and professional rights. Otherwise they must be held responsible for the betrayal of the Nurses.

### STATE REGISTRATION IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Viscount Goschen, the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, has introduced a Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd., into the House of Lords, and it is down for second reading on Tuesday, May 27th.

Lord Amptill, with his usual chivalry, will move the rejection of the Bill, as the Bill before the House of Commons, which has passed through Committee, incorporating Amendments made at the suggestion of the President of the Local Government Board, is framed upon; and is almost identical with the Bill passed by the House of Lords without a Division in 1908.

Lord Goschen's Bill (1) deprives the Nurses of Security of Representation on their own Governing Body; (2) tries to have adopted by the Lords, Amendments repealed or withdrawn in Committee in the House of Commons—i.e., the incorporation of a General Nursing Council largely representative of the laity; (3) that the College Register should be incorporated as the State Register; and (4) by reducing the registration fee to £1 rs., making self-government financially unsound—and impossible—so that the work of the General Nursing Council must either come upon the rates, like the Midwives Act, or appeal to charity to carry out the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act. It presents the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)