

STATE REGISTRATION UP TO DATE.

Miss J. G. Gilchrist has an admirable article on State Registration of Nurses in *The Guardian* of June 12. Miss Gilchrist (a constant Prize winner in the B.J.N.) welcomes the unanimous acceptance of the principle of State Registration of Nurses, and says it is a matter for gratification and pride to the promoters of the movement and their supporters (of which she is one), who have safeguarded the interests of the nursing profession and skilfully piloted the Bill through many trials and tribulations to its present position.

"A Nurses' Registration Bill" (says the *South African Nursing Record*) "has passed its second reading in the British House of Commons, and should soon become law. This is a great victory for those who have worked so enthusiastically and patiently for it for so many years, and we congratulate them. The Bill has been well received by all shades of nursing opinion in Britain. Looks as if little Old England is getting there before us after all!"

"Little Old England" will still be found in the rear of nursing progress if the College "antis," true to their reactionary instincts, can wreck our Bill. There are several ways of doing it under our antiquated Parliamentary system, and the male Executive officials of the College are up to every trick of the trade. Should social influence together with political venality effect this outrage there is very little doubt of the ultimate result so far as the nursing profession is concerned. Many nurses are greatly in sympathy with the suggestion recently advocated to form a Federation of Brain Workers on trade union lines. Already we have a National Union of Trained Nurses, an Asylum Workers' Union, a National Union of Teachers, a National Union of Journalists, a Guild of Insurance Officials, and a Bank Clerks' Union. There is now an indication that the brain workers of the kingdom are alive to the need of joint organisation if they are to keep their footing in the economic life of the country.

We hear that steps are being taken to set up a national organisation, with a paid secretary and offices in London and the country, to further the Federation of Brain-Workers.

This joint organisation may come in the nick of time to save our souls alive, and to smash up the combination against our liberties concentrated in the ruthless hands of the College of Nursing Executive.

Trained nurses have shown extraordinary devotion and restraint in their very unequal struggle with hospital tyranny during the past quarter of a century. They have now lived to see the women who should be their leaders—the willing puppets of their employers—supporting a campaign of extermination against their self-governing organisations and attempting to control

their economic conditions through a system of charity doles. There has never been anything quite so contemptible in the fight between Capital and Labour—indeed, we have to go back to the Inquisition and the Star Chamber for any analogy to the present policy in the hospital world—and that such a spirit of intolerance can be possible in the twentieth century in Britain, would be incredible had we not evidence of it in every action of the leaders of the College movement. If they think that their underhand political methods are unknown they delude themselves, and if they think they will escape the execration they deserve should their tactics succeed, they delude themselves still more. The ringleaders are well known; the poor pawns may be left to Fate.

A letter signed "Politician," which appeared on June 14, has added considerably to the weight of the Editor's letter bag. Nothing has aroused a greater sense of indignation than the circular letter sent out by the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., asking the nurses who have been foolish enough to place their necks under its hoof to help wreck the Nurses Registration Bill. This great emancipation Bill is calculated to benefit all members of the Nursing profession, whether they belong to the College or not, and that an oligarchy of hospital officials, principally Matrons, should, in their jealous intolerance of professional liberty for nurses, have issued this "order," proves the terrible danger of this Employers' Union to those members of the profession who will not submit to its drastic constitution. We are awaiting the result of the action of the "College Wreckers" in the House of Commons before taking decided action—but State Registrationists may rest assured that the smashing policy is not reserved for the exclusive benefit of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and should their machinations succeed, punishment will not only be necessary but justifiable.

NURSING ECONOMICS.

We have received a letter from Mrs. Lionel W. Harris, of 4, Upper Grosvenor Street, W., stating that she is not the wife of Mr. Lionel Harris, the Spanish art dealer, as we stated last week in our report of a meeting at her house in support of the Nation's Fund for Nurses.

The fact that Mrs. Louis Duveen, the wife of a member of the Bond Street firm of art dealers, is an active member of the Committee of the Fund which presents the Nursing Profession in endless advertisements in *forma pauperis*, may have misled our reporter. We now take occasion to correct the mistake. But the fact remains that with the kindest intentions in the world, these ladies are totally

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