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## EDITORIAL.

### A MOMENTOUS SESSION FOR TRAINED NURSES.

The new Parliament, which assembles on February 4th, is to be opened by the King in person on the 11th inst., and to trained nurses it may prove a momentous Session. It is now thirty years since the thoughtful and progressive wing of the Nursing Profession founded the British Nurses' Association (later incorporated with the prefix Royal, by Royal Charter), to provide for the Registration of Nurses, to co-ordinate and improve their professional education, and to associate them together for mutual help and protection. The history of this pioneer movement is written elsewhere. Suffice it to say that the aspirations which inspired its founders, and the policy it then advocated have gradually, in spite of interested opposition, become the policy of every trained nurse worthy of consideration throughout the Kingdom. The benighted "antis" have vanished into space. Peace be with them!

But if we are all State Registrationists now, there are progressives and reactionaries supporting the movement; and those of us who have borne the burden and heat of the day, who have created and paid for the State Registration campaign, educated the legislators and the public, and done something to awaken the nurses from the apathetic indifference engendered by our enervating Training School environment, must be very much on the alert if we are to secure to the future generations of nurses, a system of State Organization which will satisfy awakened womanhood in nursing ranks, and not, by lack of understanding and vigilance, to permit those psychologically in opposition to the spirit of progress, to secure, by Act of Parliament, a system of State Registration calculated to control our initiative, and to stultify our best efforts for the elevation of our work, not only for our own benefit, but for the welfare of the community,

whose very devoted servants we are, when all is said and done.

Two Bills are to be introduced into Parliament, owing to the action of the College of Nursing, Limited, whose supporters would have proved the sincerity of their conversion to the principles their leaders have so long opposed, had they accepted the invitation of the Central Committee to support its Bill—which is a measure to secure equal privileges to all qualified nurses—and does not attempt, as the College Bill does, to obtain preferential treatment for the nurses on its own register—a proposal which it is to be hoped a modern Parliament will not tolerate.

### MAJOR SIR SAMUEL SCOTT, M.P., TO INTRODUCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S BILL.

We have great pleasure in announcing that the pioneer Bill, drafted by the Central Committee, will be introduced into Parliament by Major Sir Samuel E. Scott, Bart., member for St. Marylebone, who sat for West Marylebone from 1898, and now represents the combined constituencies of East and West Marylebone, in which a very large number of trained nurses are resident. The fact that Sir Samuel Scott, now a Major in the Royal Horse Guards, fought in the South African War, and that in the present war he has served in Gallipoli, Egypt, and the Sinai Desert, commends him warmly to trained nurses, the most patriotic of women.

Sir Samuel Scott is Chairman of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital and Midwifery Training School, and half an hour's conversation with him impresses upon one the fact that he is deeply interested in the welfare of hospitals and nurses, and that a Nurses' Registration Bill strongly appeals to him as a measure calculated to benefit not only trained nurses, but the public, by providing nurses whose training has been standardised, and their knowledge tested and registered by a statutory authority, as that of midwives has been.

It now remains for every trained nurse who realises her personal responsibility to do her public duty.

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