

"THE END OF THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR."

The Nursing Profession all over the world owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., for the fearless manner in which she has put forth truth, these many years. The Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland can never repay her for combating specious reports as to the true inwardness of the State Registration struggle in this country. What Miss Dock writes, finds its way into nursing circles all the world over, and especially on the American Continent, North and South, and her résumé in this month's *American Journal of Nursing* under the heading, "The End of the Thirty Years' War," puts the case in a nutshell.

"In December, 1887, when the editor of the Foreign Department had been only one year out of her training school, and had as yet no more grasp on foreign affairs than has a young rabbit, a group of English matrons met at the home of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had just recently married after a short, but brilliant nursing career at the head of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and its school for nurses. Already British nursing leaders had realized the need of standardizing nursing education and protecting it by State recognition. At the meeting in Mrs. Fenwick's home, they organized for that purpose, and thereafter carried on a desperate struggle which was only brought to a close on June 27th, 1919, in the following way.

We have told in this Department, how the fortunate ballot for 'first place' on the calendar of new bills, fell to Major Barnett, who brought in the Nurses' Registration Bill in the present Parliament, and how the College of Nursing bent all its energies to defeating the Bill and bringing in its own, and how a sort of deadlock ensued.

On the twenty-seventh of June, when the Bill was up for debate, 'wrecking tactics,' well known in every legislature, were resorted to, with the result that the newest Cabinet member, the Minister of Health, Dr. Addison, rose in the House of Commons and gave, on behalf of the Government, the following promise:

"I will undertake, at the earliest possible time, on behalf of the Government, to introduce a measure, providing for the Registration of Nurses You may take that as a *bona-fide* pledge."

The old war-horses are satisfied that this will mean a complete and crowning victory for trained nurses in their long struggle with the Tory and commercial interests that have been arrayed against them. A Government measure cannot so easily be wrecked, and with the resources of the administration put behind it, a Registration Act will go through. Dr. Addison also made some very plain comments on the untenable position of the College

of Nursing, in trying to be, as it were, teacher, examiner, and business controller all in one.

One of the most prominent Matrons on the opposition made a speech not long ago in which she expressed great 'forebodings.' That is the true Tory spirit—always forebodings; never faith, and belief in the rank and file; great forebodings, doubts and fears that the world will move."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

AN IMPORTANT NURSING CEREMONY IN BRUSSELS.

The Conseil Général des Hospices et Secours de Bruxelles intends to hold an important Conference in the Hôtel de Ville, in that city, in October, to celebrate the opening of the session of the Nursing School founded in 1904.

This year it is desired to make the ceremony as imposing as possible, and that the Conference shall be presided over by a woman. The Conseil Général has invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—Founder of the International Council of Nurses—to interest herself in this Conference, and recommend representatives of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to attend and take part in this very interesting function. The fact that the heroic Burgomaster Max, of Brussels, so well known throughout the whole world for his glorious courage and philanthropy, is President, and hopes to attend, will add zest to the wish of the nurses of this country to be present and help to make the Conference the success it deserves to be.

STATE REGISTRATION UP-TO-DATE.

After many months of discussion says *Asylum News*, both the Bills for the State Registration of Nurses, of the Central Committee, and of the College of Nursing, have been withdrawn [the Central Committee's Bill has not been withdrawn.—Ed.], the Government undertaking to introduce a measure of its own at the earliest opportunity. It is a thousand pities that the two organising bodies could not have sunk their differences for the common good. Our sympathies go out to the Central Committee, which was not only first in the field, but the Bill which it had promoted was comprehensive enough to ensure the professional status of a vast and valuable body of workers and to safeguard the interests of the community. Why, then, was this measure subjected to such strenuous opposition, by the College of Nursing in particular? Frankly, that body had an "axe to grind"; it desired that the word "limited" should, by statute, be removed from its designation, and this was a leading feature in its own Bill. The Central Committee recognised the College, but the representation on the Council for State Registration accorded to the latter body did not give it the prominence to which it considered itself to be entitled. The other features of difference, such as the relative proportions of Nurses, of

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