

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

THE COURAGE THAT NEVER IS DEFEATED.

"To go on for ever and fail—and go on again."

"To feel, in the ink of the slough,
And the sink of the mire,
Veins of glory and fire
Run through and transpire and transpire,
And a secret purpose of glory in every part,
And the answering glory of battle fill my heart;
To thrill with the joy of girded men,
To go on for ever and fail and go on again,
And be mauled to the earth and arise,
And contend for the shade of a word and a thing not
seen with the eyes:
With the half of a broken hope for a pillow at night,
That somehow the right is the right,
And the smooth shall bloom from the rough."

ANNUAL MEETING.

There was an atmosphere of elation about the Annual Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses at 11, Chandos Street, London, W., on July 17th, for it marked another milestone passed on the long, long road to the goal of State Registration.

Though the members were naturally indignant that the mean and jealous policy of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., had so far prevented the Report stage of the Central Committee's Bill going through, when, owing to the good fortune of the ballot, the Bill—after so many years of patient and arduous work—had got its chance at last, there was the other side of the picture. The Government was pledged to introduce a measure providing for the registration of nurses at the earliest possible time. The pioneers are building not for the present but for the future; for the protection of the sick, and for the organisation of the nursing profession. It was therefore a grand triumph that the cause for which they had worked in the face of such bitter hostility, for so many years, from hospital governors and reactionary Matrons in their service, had received the Government imprimatur.

Hospital Governors and Matrons at a meeting at St. Thomas' Hospital, had in the past "declined to enter on any further consideration of the subject." They had been *compelled* to consider the subject further, and had capitulated at discretion.

The Central Hospital Council for London had declared uncompromising hostility to *any* form of State Registration for Nurses. Now, even the anti-registration ramparts round the London Hospital had fallen, and we had the extraordinary spectacle of the arch-protagonist of anti-registration, from his place in the House of Lords, begging the House to pass the second reading of a Nurses' Registration Bill, because he was "quite convinced it would be for the benefit of nursing."

Those who took part in the meeting realised that the campaign had now entered upon a new

phase. With the pledge given by the Minister of Health on behalf of the Government, the responsibility for drafting a just Bill was transferred from the Central Committee to the Government. Right nobly has the Committee to which the Society is affiliated held the standard aloft. Nor will it relax its efforts to obtain a just Bill until a Nurses' Registration Act is placed on the Statute Book. But the initiative is now with the Government; and the meeting, in sending a Resolution of thanks to Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, assured him that he could rely upon the women who had worked so long to promote the cause of Nurses' Registration, to give him all the support and help in their power to secure the passage into law of a just Bill. For, if a just Bill is secured, their object will have been attained, and the jealousy which was prepared to stop at nothing so that the Central Committee's Bill could be wrecked, and which was so marked as even to arouse comment in the House of Commons, will have failed to injure the cause of nursing progress.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Seventeenth Annual Report of the Society dealt principally with the fortunes of the Nurses' Registration Bill, the loss of the services of Major Chapple, owing to the vicissitudes of the General Election, the kind consent of Major Sir Samuel Scott to take charge of the Bill, and the dramatic change in the situation owing to the good fortune of Major Barnett in the ballot, and his willingness to utilise it to bring in the Nurses' Registration Bill. It recorded the phenomenal success of the Bill on its second reading in the House of Commons, and that it came through the Committee stage, having been amended with the help of the President of the Local Government Board, but with all its basic principles intact.

Then came the agitation of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., for the wrecking of the Bill in the House of Commons, despite the fact that its own Bill had secured a second reading in the House of Lords on the understanding that the Central Committee's Bill would reach that House shortly after Whitsuntide, and the two Bills could then be considered together. The organised opposition in the House of Commons on the Report stage, led by Mr. Leonard Lyle and a group of Manchester members, was touched upon, and the promise of the Minister of Health, on the first day that he took his seat in that capacity, of a Government Measure dealing with the State Registration of Nurses.

Lastly, the Report showed that the propaganda had been generously supported by the members, and that when it was notified in the official organ of the Society—THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING—that further financial support was needed at this crisis, donations were sent not only by nurses in the United Kingdom, but, in due course, from nurses with the Expeditionary Force in France, the Italian Expeditionary Force, the South African General Hospital (Expeditionary Force),

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