

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

The Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., P.C., Minister of Health, has most kindly consented to be present at the General Meeting of Members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, to be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., on Thursday, January 8th (this week), at 4 p.m.

This will give immense pleasure to the Members of the Society which promoted the first Bill for Nurses' Registration, which was introduced into the House of Commons by the late Dr. Farquharson, Member for West Aberdeenshire, in 1904. We feel sure Dr. Addison, who has so skilfully accomplished the passing of the Nursing Acts, will receive a very warm welcome from the pioneers of this great national reform.

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

We are glad to announce that a Thanksgiving Service for the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts will be held on Friday, January 23rd, at 7.15 p.m., at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, by the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, at which all nurses and their friends will be welcome. A very beautiful service is being arranged, of which we hope to give further details in our next issue, and we feel sure that many nurses who are rejoicing that at last the legislation for which they have worked so long is an accomplished fact, will wish to take part in this public act of thanksgiving.

Will our readers note the change to St. Martin's instead of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, as originally suggested. St. Martin's-in-the-Fields is in a most central position on the east side of Trafalgar Square, and is well known to many nurses owing to the interest taken by its Vicar in the social questions of the day as they affect women. It is a church which is distinguished by being open day and night.

REJOICING AT ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL.

We hear that a meeting is to be held at St. Thomas's Hospital to celebrate the passing of the Nursing Acts. We are glad to hear it, and that this pioneer Training School has at last realised, after years of opposition to State Registration, that its promoters were justified in their claim that the State should be responsible for the organisation of the Profession of Nursing.

NURSING ECHOES.

As many people as possible should see the film "The End of the Road," which deals with the evils of venereal disease, and which will be shown at the Polytechnic Cinema, Regent Street, on January 12th. Medical opinion is strongly in favour of this exhibition, and it has been approved by the Minister of Health. No one under the age of eighteen will be admitted. The pictures bring home the terrible truths in connection with this devastating disease in a very impressive way, and nurses can safely advise the public to attend.

Mr. Joseph Watson, of Wetherby, has presented the sum of £50,000 to the Leeds General Infirmary as a new year's gift. The only stipulation he makes is that the sum of £10,000 shall be invested, and the proceeds devoted to a nurses' pension fund.

This is excellent. Some day, no doubt, we shall have a comprehensive scheme of national pensions for trained nurses, to which they will themselves subscribe, doing away with that sense of fear and apprehension of an impoverished old age. £3 a week should be the annuity aimed at.

There are always interesting speeches made at the annual meeting of the Queen Victoria District Nursing Association at Sheffield, and we note that the work was highly commended by the Lord Mayor, who presided, and other friends, and Government interference was deprecated. We regret to see that the expenditure had exceeded the income by £750. A house-to-house collection was advocated.

The Superintendent (Miss Hancox) reviewed the work of the year, and said she hoped that the authorities, while using nurses for visiting purposes only, would see that there was no shortage of skilled trained nurses for the sick both in hospitals and other institutions, and also in the home. It was to be hoped that Sheffield would never again go through the critical epidemic period of the previous year, when there were literally no nurses available. There had been 2,407 new patients this year, and 305 in addition during the epidemic. It was curious to report that there had been cases of malaria and sleeping sickness. Among the most touching cases with which the nurses had to deal were those of old women. The patient usually lived alone in one room. She was usually locked in and the nurse had to get a key from a neighbour, and then light the fire and cook the food. Often the patient had no other visitors than the doctor, when the latter

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)