

## REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN VICTORIA.

## DEPUTATION TO CHIEF SECRETARY.

A deputation from the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association received by the Chief Secretary asked him recently to bring in a Bill during the present session for the Registration of Nurses

As reported in the *Melbourne Age*—

Dr. Fetherston, M.L.A., who introduced the deputation, said the Association had been asking for Registration for the past ten or fifteen years, and had received nothing from past Governments but kind words. This Government had introduced a Bill to register nurses, some of the clauses of which were an insult to the profession. The Bill did not pass the Legislative Council, because of certain contentious clauses, fixing hours of work, &c. The Association also wanted full and adequate control on the Registration Board of Control, since there would be many intricate points to be decided, which nobody but nurses would be competent to deal with. Registration was being introduced in other countries, and at present there could be no reciprocity between those countries, and any nurses going there from Victoria. The Association also asked that the next Bill should provide for registration and reciprocity only, and contain no contentious clauses.

Dr. Argyle, M.L.A., advocated the protection of the words Trained Nurse rather than Registered Nurse, and Dr. Vance considered that salaries and hours should not be fixed by Act of Parliament, because it took another Bill to alter them. Arbitration Courts and Wages Boards were the proper authorities to fix wages. He advocated the protection of nurses' uniform.

The Chief Secretary said there was no disagreement concerning registration as far as the Government was concerned. The only question was what other things were to be put into the Bill. He was not quite sure how these other things would affect Reciprocity of Registration with other countries and he did not think a Bill as outlined by Dr. Vance would pass the House. There was too much contentious matter in it. He did not think it would be depriving the nursing profession of its standing if it were laid down that the Registration Board were the body to make Regulations for the conduct of nursing examinations, and not the Nurses' Association, as requested. They were asking for something new when they requested that the word nurse must only be used by Registered Nurses. How did they propose to carry that out?

Dr. Vance: Make it a punishable offence for anyone to use the term nurse who is not entitled to do so.

The Chief Secretary said it would be a difficult matter with such a widely-used word as nurse. The Government intended cutting out of the next Bill a lot of the contentious matter that was in the last one. He had the Bill under review now, and it would be going before Cabinet for final adoption in a week or two. Meanwhile he would bring their representations before Cabinet.

## A FRENCH HOSPITAL IN EGYPT.

Miss Mary Harvey writes from Ismailia:—

I promised to write to you if I saw anything that would interest you or your readers, but if I wrote about everything that I find interesting it would make a very fat book. I found Port Said and Cairo are more interesting than Ismailia, because this town is mainly French, still there are a good many Arabs, Bedouins, Greeks, Italians, Berberines, Sudanese and a few British.

Yesterday I went to the Hospital of St. Vincent and St. Paul at Ferry Point, about two miles from here. The very charming sisters showed me over. They had no English and I very little French, still we managed to be very friendly.

The Hospital is built in blocks, each containing 2 floors, 1 ward on each floor, each ward holds 14 beds, windows on both sides, a door at each end, keep the wards as cool as possible; a wide balcony runs all round, which also helps to keep the place cool.

The windows and doors are all fitted with fly-proof windows and doors, glass ones, and sun-proof ones.

There are rounded corners everywhere. The wards have one table each, a few chairs (straight hard ones), and a locker to each bed. The beds are high, and fitted with very comfortable spiral spring mattresses. I wonder if the Arabs like so soft a bed, as they, or many of them, take their rest on the pavement. There is also a mosquito curtain to each bed.

Each ward in the surgical block has a dressing room, which contains a table for the patient, one for dressings, a fixed basin with hot and cold water, glass cupboards for instruments and dressings. The Theatre was on the ground floor, wall, ceiling, and floor all in one. This beside the windows, had four powerful electric lights, one in each corner. It also had glass cupboards for instruments. The very large sterilizer was filled outside the theatre and emptied inside.

They also have a very up-to-date electrical department.

Each floor has a small dining-room, which also serves as a sitting-room for those who are able to get up. There were pictures on the walls, a book-case with a few books, and a statue of a saint. The sister has a sitting-room next to the ward, and there are a few single-bedded rooms for first-class patients. There is a bath-room to each floor, and a fixed wash basin, also three or four w.c.'s.

Adjoining the dining-room is a small service room for washing up feeders and preparing special diets; all big washing-up is done away from the wards.

On one balcony was a statue of the Virgin in alabaster, with a canopy of dried mud decorated with shells, and just above the Virgin's head a dove had built her nest and was sitting on her eggs. I could have touched her easily.

From this balcony we looked down into the Suez Canal, which just at this point is in a deep

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