

STATE REGISTRATION BY CABLE.

From *Una*, dated August 1st, the organ of the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, we quote the following information:—

As a result of the Conference held in June, 1923, the following letter was sent to the Premier of each State:—

The Honourable
The Premier,
State of

SIR,—At a conference of delegates from the various States held in Melbourne on June 6th and following days, at which all the States were represented, the following resolution was passed:—

"That this Conference of representatives of Trained Nurses' Associations of Australia urge upon the Government of those States in which there is not already State Registration of Nurses, the necessity for the framing of legislation to ensure reciprocity with other States and countries, and that a covering letter be sent to the Premier of each State stating that owing to the absence of registration Nurses going abroad suffer from great disabilities though they may be fully qualified."

I was instructed to forward the above pointing out that these Associations represent a membership of about 12,000 Nurses, who, until legislation was obtained in some countries, have been able, by the careful organisation of the Associations, to enjoy full freedom in moving about from one State or country to another.

Now, owing to the fact that some States and countries have legal status, it has become impossible for the Associations to do this, and Nurses who, by the nature of their work, frequently find themselves obliged to move to other States, with their patients, experience great hardship and disabilities.

A cablegram has just been received from the General Nursing Council of England and Wales as follows:—

"Period grace expires July 14th, 1923. Cable applications required before that date."

The action of this, the controlling body under the Act of Parliament in England, is very much appreciated, but it will be seen that it is utterly impossible for all Nurses who may at some future date be going abroad, to do this, and we therefore beg that a Bill will be passed early in the coming session, and that it will be so framed that it will decrease and not increase the disabilities which now exist.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours obediently,

L. CROCKER, Secretary.

THE LEPER PROBLEM.

The Prince of Wales has accepted the position of Patron of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, the formation of which was announced in *The Times* of July 14th. A message from His Royal Highness will be read at an inaugural meeting to be held at the Mansion House on December 6th, under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor.

The Rev. Frank Oldrieve has been appointed secretary of the association. He has had great experience as secretary for India to the Mission to Lepers, a position he now resigns for this wider sphere of work on the leper problem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

LAUGHING STOCK OF THE WHOLE NURSING WORLD.

Miss Mary E. Gridley, R.N., Toronto, writes:—
"I am just horrified over the state of affairs in connection with the Registration of Nurses in England. Now that all these untrained people have been allowed to register, I cannot see what use the Register is. I know that when I was in training several girls were discharged from my hospital after a few months, because they were unsuitable as nurses for different reasons, and I also know that some of them went into nursing homes to exploit those who were paying for skilled nursing, and some took up private duty work. Is it right that such as these should be allowed to write R.N. after their names and wear the Registered Nurses' uniform and badge? I think we have been sorely betrayed by those in charge of our affairs. I am only sorry I am so far away and unable to vote when elections come along.

"I am so glad to be getting the JOURNAL, so that at least I can keep in touch with nursing events in England, but it's awful to think that we must be the laughing stock of the whole nursing world."

[The betrayal of our standard of registration (the very lowest compatible with safety for the sick) has been made possible by the ignorance and lack of any sense of professional responsibility upon the part of the present General Nursing Council, upon which the rank and file of nurses are so inadequately represented. We should imagine that the S.R.N. will carry no weight in Canada, and that as heretofore each candidate for work in the Dominion will have to submit her credentials to responsible professional authorities—otherwise the excellent standards now in force will be undersold and depreciated.—ED.]

STATE UNIFORM SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHABLE.

General Trained:—"I do not wish to depreciate the work or status of nurses on the Supplementary Registers, but I am emphatically of opinion that the general trained nurse—that is, a completely trained woman—should have a distinct State uniform to be worn by general nurses only. A thoroughly trained Registered Nurse should be as easily distinguished by the public as a Navy, Army, or 'Flying' Sister."

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

*October 6th.—*Describe a case of phlegmasia (white leg), with regard to onset, symptoms, treatment, and subsequent history.

*October 13th.—*In a Children's Ward how would you deal with: (a) Scabies; (b) Pediculosis capitis; (c) Thread worms in rectum?

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