

REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

On Monday, April 3rd, Mr. Batey (Spennymoor, Lab.), presented a Bill in the House of Commons to amend the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, with respect to the registration of existing nurses. Needless to say, Mr. Batey had not considered it necessary to consult Registered Nurses concerning their own affairs.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IMPERATIVE.

The incessant attacks on the legal status and standards of professional nursing would be amazing if we did not realise the abysmal ignorance of the average man and woman in everything in connection with our work. Apparently every one of all classes is born fully equipped to guide and govern the trained nurse, and now that after a thirty years' struggle which did not only cost time but thousands of pounds in hard cash, Nurses have attained, through the Registration Acts of 1919, educational standards and registration, the ignorant *vox populi* must needs clamour for their demolition.

The latest protagonist for disruption is apparently Mr. Joseph Batey, Labour M.P. for Spennymoor, who recently invited a meeting of nurses at the House of Commons to consider the subject of registration without examination of the existing nurse, and of employment of nurses over thirty-five. We are informed that Mr. Batey was supported by other M.P.s and by his secretary, Nurse Jacobs—who opened proceedings and who summarised the position of nurses who failed to register during the two years' term of grace, 1920-22, and who, having failed to avail themselves of the privilege, now found themselves debarred from professional preferment. Apparently these nurses have been told that they must conform to the law, and that if they wished to be registered they must pass an examination, although they were eligible for registration during the period of grace (thirteen years ago). Why, asked Nurse Jacobs, was an examination necessary now if not then? She hoped the fact would be realised that many women—trained, married and unmarried—were in dire want, and entirely dependent on their earnings. She failed however to point out that registration is not compulsory and that no woman is prevented from earning a living by Nursing if she can do so. The truth is that the type of nurse who failed to realise the value of registration in 1919, when the Registration Acts were passed, is presumably the type of woman who fails to appreciate legal status and high standards of efficiency at the present time.

Mr. Joseph Batey asked the meeting to agree to the resolution that a Bill should be introduced to alter the Act of 1919, so that existing nurses might register once more without examination. To which the nurses present assented. The floodgates have been thrown open once since the Acts were passed in 1919, when 3,000 semi-trained persons and V.A.D.s were placed upon our Register, a great breach of faith with efficiently trained nurses whose knowledge attained the then required standard.

We hope such a disaster will never be repeated.

In the meanwhile we advise nurses registered by examination to keep a vigilant eye upon persons who offer on the altar of their benevolence hard-won rights and privileges which do not emanate from their own pockets.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

By kind permission of the Prince of Wales, a Children's Party will be given in the Gardens of Marlborough House on Wednesday, June 28th, in aid of the Reconstruction Fund of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, of which his Royal Highness is President.

Towards the £200,000 required by St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School for the acquisition of Merchant Taylors' School site in Charterhouse Square, a sum of £36,703 has been raised. In addition the school has assets which bring the amount available towards the purchase up to £60,000. The Medical School is appealing to all old Bart.'s men to subscribe. The staff of the hospital has found £11,884, the University of London £5,000, the executors of the late Mr. Alfred de Rothschild £2,000; the Corporation of London and the Mercers' Company £1,000 each, Unilever Brothers £500, the Fishmongers' Company 250 guineas, Rahere Lodge 100 guineas, and the Ironmongers' Company £100.

The Lord Mayor (Sir Percy Greenaway) accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, recently reopened the pathway of the priory church of St. Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield, E.C. The Lord Mayor was received at the gates of the church by the rector, Canon E. S. Savage, and the churchwardens and sidesmen. The Rector read an extract from Rahere's Vision of St. Bartholomew from a manuscript in the British Museum. The Lord Mayor declaring the pathway open, said that the ground on which he stood was holy ground, and such it had been for over 700 years. It had seen many vicissitudes, yet always it had been the pathway to that temple which its founder Rahere saw in a vision on the banks of the Tiber, a temple of wondrous beauty, which he erected with sublime faith, with the hospital adjoining so ancient and so beneficent. The Lord Mayor added that to complete the work the pathway needed new entrance gates in place of the rather unworthy iron gates at present standing. He afterwards attended a special service in the church.

We regret to note that the annual report of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, states that the expenditure for the year exceeded the income by £880, due to the fact that the legacies received in 1932 amounted to only £210. In each of the previous two years over £2,000 was received.

The Governors of Westminster Hospital are contemplating the removal of the hospital from Broad Sanctuary to a site in the Millbank area. The good work of the Hospital has outgrown its present very valuable site, and the ceaseless unrestricted noisy traffic, over which apparently no one has any control, is an additional reason for rebuilding on a quieter site.

We shall miss the sight of the charmingly neat nurses flitting to and fro between the home and the hospital and taking an airing in St. James's Park.

Unable to be present at the annual meeting of the London Homœopathic Hospital, the Duke of York, its President, in a letter to Lord Donoughmore, the Treasurer, offered his congratulations on the continued work of the institution. He trusted that the remaining balance of £14,000 for the Nurses' Home would be raised during the present year.

Lord Donoughmore stated that the building extensions had been completed at a total cost of £21,633, and the total number of beds had been raised to 200.

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