

LONG AND VALIANT SERVICE.

The unjustifiable claim of the Royal College of Nursing for having secured State Registration for Nurses is of course discounted by intelligent members of the Nursing Profession, but nevertheless we intend to prove its astounding inaccuracy, in justice to all the fearless and generous pioneers of statutory education and legal status for Nurses, so bitterly opposed by certain promoters of the Royal College, whose claim is as baseless as it is discreditable.

We have been scanning certain historic documents on the State Registration controversy, carefully preserved by the British College of Nurses, which we intend to publish from time to time. We feel sure those who love honourable dealing will appreciate the following "Message from America" addressed to the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses in the year 1917, just two years before the "thirty years' war" was won by the pioneers in 1919, after a monumental struggle with obstructionists of all types; matrons in high places, medical practitioners, politicians, patrons, employers, and exploiters through the trade nursing press.

MESSAGE FROM AMERICA.

TEACHERS' COLLEGE,
Columbia University, New York,
Department of Nursing and Health,

May 1, 1917.

We, the members of the National League for Nursing Education, composed of the superintendents and teaching staff of about six hundred training schools for nurses and other institutions of America in which nurses are being taught or are occupied, wish at this time to send our cordial greetings to the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses of England.

We wish in this message to express our high appreciation of the long and valiant services which your society has rendered to the cause of nursing in your unflinching and untiring efforts to safeguard the liberties of the working nurse; to preserve for her the right to deal with her own professional affairs, and to urge upon her the responsibility and the obligation of so doing. In particular we desire to express the complete sympathy of the League with the present struggle which your society is now so courageously making to secure for nurses adequate representation on the governing boards of those bodies which are seeking to control nursing affairs.

In order that the maintenance of proper educational standards for nurses, and also of a just economic status for nurses, may not pass from the hands of nurses who alone are able to interpret their own needs and direct the issues arising from them, it is of the highest importance that your efforts should succeed.

We, the members of the National League for Nursing Education of America, welcome, therefore, this opportunity of affirming our belief that the principles for which the Society for Registration of Trained Nurses in England is contending, are fundamental principles of human government and cannot safely be disregarded in this great, important and vitally responsible branch of women's work.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NURSING EDUCATION.

The National League of Nursing Education, U.S.A., held its 47th Annual Convention in Detroit in May. It is reported "arrangements were perfect."

Miss Stella Goostray, President, continues in office for another year.

Standards of Nursing to be Maintained.

Deeply aware of the present and growing need for more qualified registered nurses to meet the increasing demand for nursing service in hospitals and public health nursing services throughout the country, the National League of Nursing Education, at the final business session, on the basis of evidence presented, reaffirmed its belief that professional nursing offers a satisfying, worthwhile career to college graduates as well as to high school students of exceptional ability. It further resolved to exert every effort to recruit well-prepared students for good schools of nursing.

The President, in closing the Convention, warned members of the League that pressure would be placed upon them to lower standards of nursing education and to let down the bars to admit less qualified students to nursing schools because of the urgent demand for nursing service.

"It is important in this time of stress," Miss Goostray said, "that we maintain the standards of nursing education which will provide for the best type of nursing service wherever and whenever it is needed."

We cannot do better in Britain than to adopt the policy of the N.L.N.E. and stick to it now that an attempt is being made "to let down the bars" in this country.

NIGHTINGALEIANA.

EMBLEY PARK TO BE SOLD.

The announcement that Embley Park, on the edge of the New Forest in Hampshire, formerly the home of Florence Nightingale, is to be sold, will become known to nurses all over the world with a sense of deep regret.

This beautiful estate was acquired by the late Mr. J. J. Crosfield some years ago and became almost a Nightingale Trust, so sympathetically were all its traditions conserved by him and his wife, whilst modernising the mansion and beautifying the splendidly timbered estate. The gardens at Embley blossomed at all seasons with rare shrubs and flowers as if touched by magic—and nurses from all the countries on earth were welcomed, and permitted to pass where Florence Nightingale had passed—and realise the environment of her spirit.

When Embley passes from the care of the Crosfield family, it is to be sincerely hoped that its Nightingale traditions will be conserved.

Just for once we long to be a millionaire to make sure that the Nightingale flame might be kept alight. But so unique is the personality of Florence Nightingale, that whoever acquires her place of habitation must inevitably revere its worldwide traditions, and keep her memory sacred—an honourable trust indeed.

Religious zeal, chivalrous love and honour, democratic liberty, are the three most powerful principles that have ever influenced the character of large masses of men. Each of them singly has often excited the greatest enthusiasm, and produced the most important changes.—MACAULAY.

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