

ARTICLE ON REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

(BY MISS DARBYSHIRE, R.R.C.)

I think we are all agreed that some form of registration of Nurses is absolutely essential to the welfare of the Nursing Profession in India. The present state of things is chaotic and we should therefore as an Association, pledge ourselves to work wholeheartedly for the reduction of the chaos, and the establishment of a scheme which would insure that the training, employment, status and prospects of Nurses in India are improved, until they are on a level with other countries which are now far ahead of India in the recognition of Nursing as an honourable profession. At the last Conference we discussed fully the prospects of establishing Provincial Nursing Services on the lines of that proposed by the Bombay Presidency Nursing Association. I have had opportunities of taking over this scheme with almost all Inspector-Generals of Civil Hospitals and Chief Medical Officers in the I. M. S. and not one of them have expressed anything but approval of the proposal. You have heard that at their Conference held in Calcutta in January 1921 they passed a resolution cordially welcoming the idea of provincial medical services and recommending the establishment of such (including a register) in every province.

Well! it is not difficult for us to pass resolutions and we all feel extremely keenly on this subject but if we are to gain our objective we must plan out a campaign and work hard to keep it before the public, enlisting support from not only the medical profession but of every one even remotely interested in or connected with Hospitals or Nursing work.

Our own profession in India sadly wants "enthusing" on this matter and to further our ends we must have a much larger number of members than we now possess.

How is this to be accomplished?

First cannot every member do her best to secure at least one other member.

Secondly it has been suggested by Miss Ewing that Provincial Centres should be established.

Both these proposals are valuable and should be carried out, the second depending largely on the first, for if we have a large number of members we shall have more to join the Provincial Centres when established. I think this proposal should be published in the journal and members should be asked if they are willing to act as local Secretaries. Even if we started 3 or 4 Centres in the larger towns it would create interest and make our members feel that the Association is really alive. Then I feel we should address all heads of institutions and Hospitals asking them to give us their views as to the possibility of establishing a Provincial Nursing Service or registration in their part of India. When we have obtained this information we should be able to forward an address to the D. G., I.M.S., followed by letters to the provincial

medical departments and to members of the Legislative Assembly. It has been suggested that a deputation to the Viceroy would be helpful and when the time comes for this I feel sure we shall be given a sympathetic hearing.

The benefits of the registration of Nurses in India would be many.

1st.—The establishment of a curriculum for the training and teaching of nurses.

2nd.—The length of training and the selection of Hospitals suitable as training schools would be determined.

3rd.—The pay and allowances for nurses in training would be established according to the conditions in the different parts of the country.

4th.—The nurses when trained would be placed on a register and their qualifications would be stated plainly for everyone to see.

5th.—Although at first registration would be voluntary, it would in time (if history repeated itself as it usually does) become compulsory and there would be penalties attached to infringement of the laws for registered nurses.

6th.—The fact that nursing had been raised to the level of a registered profession would tend to :—

- (a) Insure a better class of candidates.
- (b) Improve the pay of trained nurses.
- (c) Control the public from half or partially trained women or those with no training at all.
- (d) Protect the trained nurses themselves from exploitation.
- (e) Make it impossible for any person proved to be living an immoral life to be called a registered nurse.

These ideals may seem very far at present but we have only to remember the difficulties which have been surmounted by our profession at home and to press forward with all our strength to the goal before us.

THE DELHI HEALTH SCHOOL.

BY MISS GRIFFIN.

I have been asked to tell you a little about the Delhi Health School and what we are trying to do in it.

For many years the high infant mortality rate, the sufferings of women at the time of confinement, and the many deaths of young children from preventable causes, has been the study and the worry of most of the Medical