

HOUSE No. 137

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE AND REGISTRATION,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, DEC. 2, 1925.

To the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GENTLEMEN:— In accordance with section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws, as amended by section 43 of chapter 362 of the Acts of 1923, the Board of Registration of Nurses respectfully submits such parts of its annual report (Pub. Doc. No. 91) as contain recommendations for legislative action.

Very truly yours,

FRANK M. VAUGHAN,
Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.

I. ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR
IN THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Massachusetts has always aimed to stand in the front rank in educational and health matters. Many of the other states have an educational director who works under supervision of the nurses' registration board, and who does valuable work by visiting the various hospitals and aiding them by conference and advice as to their training school problems. In this way a nurse graduates better equipped to meet the public needs, and the board has a better understanding of the individual work in each hospital. The rapidly increasing number of requests to this board from various hospitals throughout the state, for service along these lines, makes the services of an educational director, a necessity in this department.

Our hospitals are frequently confronted with the problem that in some of the other states their graduates find themselves unable to secure registration on account of a difference in standards, and young women naturally choose to train in a state where their graduation will be recognized in other states.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration of Nurses has established a minimum curriculum for training schools in this state, and there is a constant demand on the part of the hospitals for assistance in adjustment to the standards fixed. An educational director would be a direct help toward maintaining a high standard.

II. PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE REGISTRATION
AND RENEWAL FEES FOR NURSES.

Massachusetts requires a lower fee for registration of nurses than most of the other states. With a view to raising the standard of our law to conform with nurses' registration laws in other states, this board recommends that the fee for registration of nurses in this commonwealth, be raised from five to ten dollars.

At the request of the Auditor's Department, the board recommends that the annual renewal fee for nurses' registration, be raised from fifty cents to one dollar. In all the registration departments where an annual renewal fee is required, the fee is much larger. Fifty cents is not a convenient amount to send by mail. Many persons dislike to draw a check for so small an amount or to send cash by mail for that amount. To obtain a money order for so small a sum often causes a loss of time inconsistent with the small fee required.

