

veloped in such an extraordinary way that it commanded their respect and won their sympathy. Nurses had struggled to improve themselves in their qualifications for the duties of their calling. They submitted themselves to years of training, and had done everything they could to win public respect. Their final claim was to urge that they were entitled, for their own protection and that of the public, to have a State Register, and a Select Committee of the House of Commons had said that this claim was reasonable and fair, but the Bill of his noble friend was really intended to prevent the views of the nurses from being carried out.

Lord Balfour inquired what authority his noble friend had for saying that, and Lord Ashbourne replied that he judged from the mass of correspondence he had received. The noble lord had not been able to mention the name of a medical corporation or body supporting the Bill; therefore, according to his experience as a man of the world, and judging from his correspondence, the great mass of the nursing profession were opposed to the noble lord's Bill. They took their stand upon the Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses in the House of Commons, and they believed the measure now under consideration had been introduced to stop the one which they desired.

#### LORD TWEEDMOUTH.

Lord Tweedmouth said that he looked upon the Bill with some benevolence. He did not consider that it interfered with the Registration of nurses, but regarded it as a step in that direction. The nurses were not the only persons interested; there were the interests of the medical profession to be considered. It was not the duty of the patient, but of the doctor, to choose the nurse. Then the hospital authorities must be taken into account, and the Local Government Board, probably the largest employer of nurses in the country, was also interested in this legislation.

#### VISCOUNT GOSCHEN.

Viscount Goschen said that Guy's Hospital, and Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute of which he was Chairman, were opposed to the Bill, which, in his opinion, would not be of the slightest advantage to anyone. He endeavoured to ascertain whether the names of nurses who had not completed their training would be placed on the Directory with those who held the certificate of their training school, and claimed against the Bill the votes both of those in favour of State Registration and those against it.

#### LORD MONKSWELL.

Lord Monkswell, who opposed the Bill, said the public would be confused if a Directory of Nurses were established and subsequently a

State Register. He strongly objected to the Bill on the ground that it would put the unqualified nurse on exactly the same footing as the qualified nurse.

#### EARL RUSSELL.

Earl Russell said the Bill was fortunate in its introducer and in the unexpected support it had received from the front Ministerial bench, but there its good fortune ended. Its introduction, in competition with the House of Commons Bill, without the consent or concurrence of the persons most concerned, would not commend itself to their lordships. Trained nurses had worked long and arduously to improve their profession, and he was in sympathy with the demand for State Registration which they had so much at heart.

#### THE EARL OF CREWE.

The Earl of Crewe said that two principal difficulties in regard to a Registration Bill had been brought before him as President of the Council. One was machinery; the other was that the medical and nursing professions each considered that their profession should have a majority on the Council to be formed. Then how could putting people on a register be regarded as a guarantee of their permanent efficiency? The object of the Directory was to provide a kind of "Who's who" in the nursing profession. He did not see any possibility of a Registration Act being passed within the next three years, and regarding Lord Balfour's Bill as something of a step in advance, and one which would be of assistance to Registration, of which he was heartily in favour, he should vote for it, if a division were taken.

#### THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, in a most able and convincing speech, summed up the position. He said he understood the noble earl who had just sat down to suggest that the present Bill was better than nothing. But was it clear that this was so? He confessed to some doubts on that point. The Bill dealt with a matter of very great importance, and he thought their lordships could not be too careful in approaching legislation on a subject of this kind. The noble lord who moved the second reading drew a sharp contrast between this Bill, which was merely for the establishment of a Directory, and what he called the more ambitious and drastic scheme of Registration. But the present Bill was really a Registration Bill. Behind the Directory there would be the official registrar; there were conditions to be attached to registration; there were pains and penalties to be imposed on those who did not comply with the conditions. Therefore, this was a Registration Bill, and the only

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