

The Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Lords.

We know that our readers are most anxiously awaiting the report of the Debate on the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Lords on Tuesday last, and it is with pleasure we record that the Bill made satisfactory progress. It passed through Committee by general consent, and was ordered to be reported to the House as amended.

Although a number of small verbal amendments were made, the alterations in the Bill were very few.

1. The title of the Bill has been shortened, and it is now, quite simply, "An Act to regulate the Registration of Nurses."

2. In Clause 2, the Council is now called "The General Council for the Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom."

3. The legal title of a nurse is to be "registered nurse," therefore the word "trained" has been eliminated throughout the Bill. Thus in Clause 2, which, in the amended Bill, stands "The term 'trained nurse' or 'registered nurse' means a nurse who is for the time being registered in the Nurses' Register," the words "trained nurse or" have now been deleted. The same course has been adopted in relation to the word "certified," and "registered" is now substituted, and certificates are now "certificates of registration."

4. The chief gain of the Bill has been the inclusion of Irish Nurses in its benefits. This was achieved on the motion of the Lord President, Viscount Wolverhampton, by the deletion of Clause 23, which provided that the "Act shall not extend to Ireland," but it must be mentioned here both in order to give it due prominence, and for the sake of clearness in regard to other amendments.

5. Clause 4 was amended so that the Council shall now consist of sixteen instead of fifteen persons, and the direct representatives of the registered nurses are to be seven instead of six, to provide for the representation of Ireland. Thus on the first General Nursing Council there is to be "one nurse to be appointed by the Irish Nurses' Association," and, in future Councils, of the seven registered nurses, "one shall be elected by the nurses in the general register whose registered address is in Ireland."

6. In the same Clause 4, the paragraph relating to the representatives of the British Medical Association now runs as follows:—"Three registered medical practitioners to be appointed by the British Medical Association,

one to be resident in England, one to be resident in Ireland, and one to be resident in Scotland."

7. Lord Ashbourne had given notice of the following amendment: "The Council may appoint three or more members to act as a committee for Ireland and for Scotland respectively, and may authorise each such committee, subject to revision or approval by the Council, to transact any business of the Council concerning Ireland or Scotland respectively, which the Council may think it expedient to delegate to such committee."

Lord Ampthill considered this was not conducive to good administration. Business which was not of a general character would be routine business transacted by the Secretarial. The Lord President opposed the amendment on the same ground, and pointed out that there was nothing to prevent the Council from appointing Sub-Committees to report on specific points. Ultimately Lord Ashbourne withdrew this amendment.

8. Clause 11 was amended to facilitate co-operative training, so that a nurse holding a three years' certificate of training from a general hospital "or from hospitals" approved by the Council should be eligible for registration during the period of grace. Similarly a nurse holding a three years' certificate from "an institution" or "institutions" recommended by the Local Government Board may be registered.

The word "poor law" has been deleted in reference to the institutions recommended by the Local Government Board, which are now described as "an institution, or institutions which the Local Government Board recommend, and certify to be wholly or partly maintained out of the rates."

9. The same alteration as to hospitals and institutions holds good as to the evidence of training required of a nurse under Clause 12.

10. Under Clause 17 the use of the name or title of registered nurse by any person not registered under the Act was penalised from its commencement. An amendment was moved by Lord Ampthill, and accepted by the House, that penalties for the wrongful use of the title shall take effect "from and after the publication of the first Annual Register of Nurses registered under this Act."

11. Under Clause 20, notice had been given by both Lord Ampthill and Lord Ashbourne to move that a nurse threatened with suspension or removal from the Register should be entitled to "legal representation if he or she so desires." Ultimately the Clause was not moved by Lord Ampthill, and withdrawn by Lord Ashbourne, it being considered that the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)