

nurses' interests were safeguarded by the right of appeal.

12. On Clause 21 (appeal from decision of General Nursing Council) a discussion took place as to the Court to which the appeal should be made. The cause provides for an appeal to the High Court, and Viscount Wolverhampton expressed the opinion that an appeal to the County Court would meet the case. Eventually it was decided to consider the matter further and deal with it at a later stage.

Lord Ashbourne also withdrew an amendment providing that in the event of an appeal to the High Courts a nurse must appeal to the Court in the country of her registered place of residence. It was pointed out that this might prove a hardship to a nurse engaged in nursing in one part of the United Kingdom but whose registered address was in another.

13. As previously mentioned, Clause 23 limiting the scope of the Act to England and Scotland was deleted.

14. Lord Amptill then moved the re-introduction of the Clause originally inserted in the Bill providing that the Act should not be construed to affect or apply to the gratuitous nursing of the sick by friends or members of a family, or to any person attending the sick for hire who does not in any way assume to be a registered nurse. He was doubtful as to the expediency of re-introducing this clause, and invited an opinion from the House. The Lord President thought the Clause irrelevant, and that danger of a misunderstanding of the Act as interfering with gratuitous nursing was imaginary. He could not agree to the amendment without further consideration. Lord Ashbourne agreed that the Clause was not absolutely necessary, but thought that the public mind would be relieved by the insertion of some words making this point absolutely clear. The Earl of Crewe thought it unnecessary to insert words of a kindly and serene character to reassure people who did not know the law, and the amendment was withdrawn.

The next Clause put down by Lord Amptill with a view to re-insertion was Clause 29 of Mr. Munro-Ferguson's Bill. "Nothing in this Act shall be considered as conferring any authority to practice medicine or to undertake the treatment or cure of disease." This was done at the urgent request of some medical bodies. The amendment was negatived without discussion.

One episode in the Debate deserves special

notice. The provision that in the first instance the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland should appoint two representatives on the Council, and the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses one representative, had already been attacked by Mr. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, in the public press earlier in the day. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, when Clause 4 was under discussion, renewed the attack, and asked the Lord President whether he had satisfied himself that they should be trusted with the great powers which they would have to exercise. The two Societies were closely connected.

The Earl of Crewe said that these Societies had promoted the Bill, and it was as reasonable to suppose that they would desire representation on the Council, as it was to assume that those who had opposed it would not desire it.

Lord Amptill, in replying to Lord Balfour, referred to Mr. Sydney Holland's letter to the press, which, he said, was self-condemned by its misstatements. Mr. Holland stated that the Matrons' Council was to be permanently represented on the Council, which was contrary to fact, as it was also in the case of the State Society. Lord Amptill explained the connection between the two societies, inasmuch as the primary object of the Matrons' Council at its foundation was to obtain the State Registration of Nurses, and it established a Standing Committee for its furtherance. The work of this Committee increased so greatly that it was decided to form a Society having State Registration as its sole object. He showed also that for years the Matrons' Council was the only Society which worked to secure the State Registration of Nurses, that it had a membership of nearly 200 past and present Matrons of hospitals and infirmaries, not counting its distinguished hon. members, and that the membership of both Societies would have been even greater had not many Matrons and nurses been the paid servants of hospital committees strongly opposed to the registration policy of the Council. The representation of both Societies was retained.

All that now remains is for the amended Bill to be reported to the House of Lords and the third reading taken.

Nothing could exceed the care and attention given by the Lords present at the Debate, to the Clauses under discussion, nor was the unanimity of opinion with regard to them less noteworthy.

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