

ing Body—the General Nursing Council. That was a counsel of perfection to which I wish we had attained; but, as you know, when our own Bill was going through the House of Commons, it met with undeserved opposition from certain sections—and, therefore, to get an agreed Bill, it was arranged that the First Council should be appointed by the Minister, upon the nominations of the various nursing interests. And that is what is going to be done. That Council, of course, is not yet nominated, because Dr. Addison has carried this Act through at very great speed. He only brought it into the House of Commons after the Recess; and, after great expedition, it was just ready for the King's Assent a few hours before Parliament was prorogued. (Applause.) We are now waiting for the letter, which I believe we are going to have in a day or two, asking the Central Committee, to which this Society is affiliated, to nominate the nurses it desires to have upon the Council, when the Minister will consider the various nominations and make his selection. Of course, we shall all feel that our own particular nominations are the best, that nothing could possibly be better, and that if we do not get them on the Council the Council cannot do its work! And, perhaps, there may be some truth in that claim, because, after all, the people who have had the foresight to promote this movement, many years ago, and have worked at it and taken trouble in furthering it, who have studied it at home and abroad, have qualified to administer the Act. We feel that they are safe people to trust with carrying this legislation into practice. But I feel convinced that the representatives from the Central Committee, if they find themselves on a Council with others whom they do not think as wise as themselves, will sedulously avoid emphasising their convictions on that subject. (Laughter.) We are indeed happy in meeting together to-day to acclaim the passing of Acts for the State Registration of Nurses, the one aim and object of this Society." (Loud applause.)

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

DR. ADDISON, Minister of Health, then entered the hall, accompanied by Sir Robert Morant, K.C.B., and was accorded a very enthusiastic reception. He was welcomed by the Chairman and took his seat on her right hand on the platform.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RIGHT HON. CHRISTOPHER ADDISON, M.D., M.P., P.C., MINISTER OF HEALTH.

The CHAIRMAN said:—

"Colleagues and Friends—

"Owing to the signal honour which has been conferred on our meeting by the presence of Dr. Addison, the Minister of Health, and knowing the great value of his time, we will now proceed to take the Votes of Thanks on our Agenda. In this connection I have sincere pleasure in expressing from the Chair our very deep sense of obligation

to the Minister of Health in the following Resolution:—

That the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in General Meeting assembled, desire to convey to the Minister of Health, their most sincere gratitude for his skillful diplomacy in carrying through Parliament the Nurses Registration Act; and for initiating similar Acts for Scotland and Ireland; thus securing for the benefit of the whole nation this long delayed and greatly needed measure of Nursing Reform and Public Protection.

The members of this Society, who have for many years worked to obtain such legislation, desire most respectfully to assure the Minister of Health of their whole-hearted support, in helping to make the Measure one of great professional benefit and public usefulness.

"Speaking to the Resolution, I would remind you that Dr. Addison is an old friend and supporter of the organisation of Trained Nursing by the State, and that he backed our Bill—promoted in 1904—when introduced into Parliament in 1910, '11, '12, '13 and '14, and that it was only when he 'went up higher' and became a member of the Government that he wrote 'that although his interest in Nurses' Registration was the same as before,' he was unable to continue to back our Bill.

"To the history of Nurses' Registration in the past Session I need not here refer, further than to remind you that when through our peculiar Parliamentary procedure a few dissentients were able to obstruct the passage of the Central Committee's Bill—a private Member's Bill—Dr. Addison came forward and gave us a pledge in the House of Commons that he would introduce, as a Government Measure, a Bill for the State Registration of Nurses. How faithfully and expeditiously he has kept that pledge we all know. (Applause.) Here is the Act to which the King's Assent was given on December 23rd last. When presenting the Bill on behalf of the Government in the House of Lords, Lord Sandhurst said:— 'I present this Bill as an agreed Measure. . . . I certainly have thought that such a result would have been well-nigh impossible, but I did not count on the magician-like qualities of the Minister of Health.'

"Those of us who have worked unceasingly for so many years to attain the great reforms which the Nursing Acts are calculated to effect, have hardly yet realised the wonderful transformation which the waive of Dr. Addison's wand will bring to pass.

"This much we may predict—that long after more popular legislation has had its day, the beneficent results of the Nursing Acts for the welfare of the community and the Registered Nurses will become more and more apparent, and the name of Dr. Addison should for all time be associated with such beneficence. The members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—which initiated the first Nurses' Bill—in recording their gratitude, at the same time offer their help to the Minister of Health in making the Nursing Act a living force for good, in attaining higher standards of health and happiness for the

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