

plot, which, had it succeeded, would have deferred the organisation of nursing education and State Registration for half a century. Incidentally I may recall the fact that one of the most vindictive anti-registrationists—an active member of the Central Council—and who had helped to draft the Bill, was standing behind my chair during the Debate, when the defeat of the measure was announced, he remarked "Anyway it was a d—d bad Bill." That was proof of the unprincipled policy which inspired the defunct Bill!

#### THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

After Lord Ampthill's triumph in the Lords, Mr. Munro-Ferguson withdrew the Nurses' Registration Bill from the House of Commons, and again Lord Ampthill championed our cause, by introducing it in the House of Lords on June 23rd, and its Second Reading was taken on July 6th. Our case was brilliantly presented by Lord Ampthill, and after an interesting discussion the Leader of the House, the Marquis of Lansdowne (whose conference with Lord Ampthill we watched with many heart throbs!), summed up for the Second Reading, and when the noble Marquis expressed the opinion that the proper course would be for the House to give the Bill a Second Reading, we knew it was safe!

The Bill was further considered by a Committee of the whole House, and was deferred to the Autumn Session. Then began a campaign of intensive culture of the sympathies of noble Lords. It is an old axiom "that the British public dearly loves a Lord," and indeed with such great understanding, courtesy and kindness were the nurses treated—that they learned to love many lords—and especially Lord Ampthill.

In the Autumn Session on November 10th, the Bill was read a third time and passed without a Division at any stage. None of us who were privileged to be present, will ever forget that happy hour, when Lord Ampthill and his supporters came out of the House into the Lobby giving us the opportunity of expressing thanks—rejoicing with us in the happiest way. Alas! the Liberal Government refused time for the consideration of the Bill in the Commons. Thus, although we had worked ardently for nursing reform for 21 years, we had still eleven more years drudgery in front of us, until in 1919 the Stars in their Courses just manipulated the Ballot, presenting first place to Major Sir Richard Barnett, who fulfilled his promise of bringing in the Nurses' Registration Bill drafted by the Central Committee, of which Lord Ampthill was Chairman. At every stage we had to avoid the pitfalls of the enemy.

This time the College of Nursing, Ltd., cut across our bows by introducing a rival Bill into the House of Lords, which gave Lord Ampthill one more opportunity of proving his devotion to our cause, by moving its rejection.

It is within the memory of all here present that the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, Minister of Health in 1919, on the Report Stage of the Central Committee's Bill in the House of Commons, undertook that he would, at the earliest possible time, on behalf of the Government, introduce a Measure for the State Registration of Nurses. He re-deemed that pledge on November 6th, and on December 15th the three Bills, for England, Scotland, and Ireland, were presented by Lord Sandhurst, on behalf of the Government, read a second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The business was usually brought up in the early hours of the morning, and with untiring devotion Lord Ampthill was to be observed on the Crimson Benches holding a watch-brief in the nurses' interests.

On December 23rd, at the Prorogation of Parliament by a Royal Commission in the House of Lords, the Royal Assent was given to the three Nurses' Registration Bills, conferring legal status on the Nurses of the then United Kingdom, and raising Nursing into a legally constituted Profession.

With this beneficent reform the name of Lord Ampthill must be for ever most honourably associated, and the gratitude of countless nurses and of the community at large will for ever be his due, as the far-reaching benefit to the standard of the Nation's health yearly becomes more apparent through the application of the Nurses' Registration Acts. (Applause.)

Mrs. Fenwick called on Mr. Herbert Paterson (the Hon. Treasurer of the Central Committee) to support the Expression of Thanks, and said that before presenting to Lord Ampthill a copy of the Register of Nurses, she would invite Miss Margaret Breay to read the Inscription.

#### MR. HERBERT PATERSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Herbert Paterson, F.R.C.S., Hon. Treasurer of the Central Committee, who associated himself with the presentation, said that it gave him great pleasure to support Mrs. Fenwick on this occasion. He liked to look on the medical and nursing professions as one, and he returned thanks to Lord Ampthill not on behalf of medicine and nursing but on behalf of those conjointly associated in the healing of the sick.

He called to mind that Lord Ampthill was at Oxford at the same time that he was at Cambridge, and that he played a great part at Oxford in taking from Cambridge that record of success in the boat race which it had held for so long.

Later it was a great pleasure to him to see Lord Ampthill playing such an active part in promoting the State Registration of Nurses.

There were people who said that the State Registration of Nurses was not much use. A diamond was not of much use until it was removed from the mine, cut and polished, and a nurse unless properly trained could not be efficient. The State Register of Nurses afforded evidence of training. On behalf of the great profession of healing the sick he tendered thanks to Lord Ampthill for the important part he had played in establishing that Register.

#### THE INSCRIPTION.

Mrs. Fenwick addressing Lord Ampthill said:—My Lord, May it please you to receive from grateful Registered Nurses a copy of the Register of Nurses in which we have inserted a short Address of Thanks to you for your invaluable support in helping to constitute the Profession of Nursing on a legal basis, and which Miss Margaret Breay will read."

Miss Breay then read the following Inscription:—

THIS COPY OF THE  
REGISTER OF NURSES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES  
IS PRESENTED TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD AMPHILL,  
G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

BY THE  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF  
NURSES IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF HIS GENEROUS  
ACTION IN INTRODUCING IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, IN 1908,  
THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL DRAFTED BY THE SOCIETY  
FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES, AND  
SECURING ITS PASSAGE IN THAT HOUSE, WITHOUT A DIVISION  
AT ANY STAGE, AND WITH SUPPORT ON ALL SIDES OF THE  
HOUSE.

THE OBJECTS WHICH NURSES SOUGHT TO ATTAIN BY THIS  
BILL WERE:—

FIRSTLY, THE ENFORCEMENT OF A PRESCRIBED STANDARD  
OF TRAINING, AND THE CERTIFICATION, AFTER EXAMINATION  
AND REGISTRATION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE,  
OF THOSE NURSES WHO HAD ATTAINED THAT STANDARD.

SECONDLY, TO PLACE IN THE HANDS OF TRAINED NURSES  
AN INSTRUMENT ENABLING THEM TO PROTECT THE HONOUR  
AND THE INTERESTS OF THEIR PROFESSION, AND THE RIGHT  
TO WEAR A PROTECTED UNIFORM AND BADGE.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION

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