

IRISH NURSES FIERCELY INDIGNANT.

Letters from Ireland prove that the feeling in the nursing world there is fiercely indignant at the action of the Irish Office and Irish Local Government Board, in advising his Majesty's Government to omit Ireland from the privileges of the Nurses' Registration Bill, and in making an organised and determined protest against what is a very real injury Irish nurses are wise, and moreover they are following the unprejudiced advice of Lord Crewe.

In making a general statement with regard to the attitude of his Majesty's Government towards the Nurses' Bill in the House of Lords on July 21st, Lord Crewe said: "The next amendment exempts Ireland from the application of the Bill. On that, perhaps, I may say a word. The exemption of Ireland is, of course, only provisional, because Ireland might be included at any time by Order in Council. The Irish Local Government Board are indisposed to apply the Bill to Ireland at present for administrative reasons, into which I confess I have not closely looked. Therefore, it is clear that the exclusion of Ireland can only be regarded as provisional, and those noble Lords and others who object to the exclusion of Ireland will, I think, do well, before the Bill comes up again, to state their views to the Irish Local Government Board with a view to the reconsideration of the question. It is, of course, purely an Irish question, and it is one upon which those who represent the Government here would not desire without very strong reason to override the Irish Department. Therefore, noble Lords like Lord Mayo and others should make their representations on the subject to the Irish Local Government Board."

What Lord Crewe said to noble Lords we say to noble nurses. This is purely an Irish question so far as the efficient training of Irish nurses, and the efficient nursing of Irish patients, is concerned. Because, if ignorance and intolerance upon the part of the Irish Office succeed in contracting Irish Nurses out of the Registration Bill, *neither the one, nor the other, will exist for long.*

Primarily, therefore, out of consideration for the sick in Ireland, it is the immediate duty of Irish Matrons and nurses to claim equal professional rights and privileges under any Registration Act, with the nurses of Great Britain. It is a just demand, and has the sympathy of every just-minded person who knows anything of the question. The cross-currents of Irish

politics are somewhat difficult to elucidate, but here is a clear issue. Is the Irish Executive to be permitted to check the evolution of Nursing Education and Nursing Efficiency in Ireland, in direct opposition to the almost unanimous demand of Irish Nurses, supported by eminent members of the medical profession, and the Irish Party?

The answer is emphatically, No! Well, go to work and prevent them.

STATE REGISTRATION AND THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the Annual General Meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Sheffield last week, a report from the Medico-Political Committee dealt with State Registration of Nurses. Sir Victor Horsley said the question was extremely important, and the opportunity would arise when the Bill reached the House of Commons, to offer any alterations that might be thought desirable. The hard working and important body of people who were pushing the matter forward on behalf of the nurses recognised the British Medical Association as the professional authority in the matter, and the Government had adopted amendments embodying the views laid down by the Representative Meeting two years ago. It was a very satisfactory position. He moved:

"That the Representative Meeting authorises the Council to propose such amendments to the Nurses' Registration Bill as may be found desirable upon further consideration of the Bill as already amended in the House of Lords."

Dr. Fothergill moved:

"That the following matters be included among the amendments to be proposed:—

"(a) That the British Medical Association's choice with regard to representatives be not restricted.

"(b) That Clause 29 of the Bill, as introduced into the House of Lords, be restored."

The Bill provides that it would be obligatory to appoint as the Association's representatives a physician, a surgeon, and a general practitioner.

Clause 29, omitted by Lord Crewe, provided that "Nothing contained in this Act shall be considered as conferring any authority to practise medicine or to undertake the treatment or cure of disease."

It is very natural that the medical profession should wish such a proviso inserted in the Nurses' Bill.

The amendment was carried, as also the Resolution as amended.

The amended Bill not being in print several questions were asked to which replies were not forthcoming.

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