

they took Sir John Moore's motion to mean as in the Midwives' Bill they could vote upon it. At the same time, ought not representation to be made to the effect that it would involve the Council in considerable expense?

Dr. Latimer (Direct Representative) thought that should be done.

Dr. Mackay (University of St. Andrew's) did not vote either way on such a small detail; but this was one of the most important proposals, as far as the profession was concerned, that had been before Parliament since the Medical Act of 1858. It was practically a creation of an inferior department of the medical profession. The British Medical Association, as Dr. Langley Browne had told them, had decided that this department should be created. Speaking for himself, he had not seen the Bill, and did not know anything about it. It was not a Government Bill, but it had got the Government dress, and might pass during the present session. He thought at all events that the Council should give an opinion as to whether it approved of this as a separate provision, because a great deal that was done by the doctor amongst the poor and in country places would be done by the nurses. They would undoubtedly begin to practise minor surgery and minor medicine. All this might be right enough in the public interest, but it was not in the interests of the profession. This was an extremely serious matter, and, if it was going to create an inferior branch of practitioners in medicine and surgery, as it seemed to him it would, he should want more time to consider it.

Sir Christopher Nixon moved:

"That the General Medical Council, not having had an opportunity of examining the particulars of the Nurses' Registration Bill, declined to express any opinion as to whether the Bill was desirable or not."

Dr. Lindsay Steven seconded.

The President reminded the Council that it had again and again recommended to the Government and the Privy Council the registration of nurses in the interests of the public. His recollection went back to a very early date. On November 30th, 1889, a resolution to that effect was proposed by the late Sir John Simon and adopted, and now the Council was invited to go back on a resolution which had been so long on record.

Sir Christopher Nixon observed that they might all be in favour of a certain measure of registration for nurses, but it did not follow that they were in favour of an elaborate Bill which created an inferior department of the profession.

Dr. McManus (Direct Representative) pointed out that the Council was not dealing with any new form of minor practitioners; they already had the nurses. All that the general practitioner desired was to know, when he called in a nurse in a poor district, that he had got a woman that had been properly trained, who had been properly examined, and as to whom there was some guarantee of her conduct and respectability. Under the present state of affairs any woman of a doubtful character rehabilitated herself by putting on a

cloak and calling herself a nurse, and the public were deluded; whereas, if this Bill were passed, and rules prepared, these women would be prevented from foisting themselves on the public and on the members of the profession, and the profession would have some guarantee that persons who professed to act as nurses were persons of good character and qualified to perform the duties for which they were required.

Dr. Latimer observed that the more control the profession had over the nurses the more certain it would be that the women would be properly trained. The Act was one which the nurses had a right to call for, and it would put an end to the anomalous state of affairs to which Dr. McManus had called attention.

Sir John Moore, in reply, said that he was astonished at the admissions of some members of the Council that they knew nothing about the Bill. It had been before the profession for months. He held a document in his hand, dated November, 1908, which contained a sheet of amendments drawn up by the College of Physicians, Ireland, to this very Bill. In spite of opposition, registration of nurses was sure to come, and he thought it would come within a few months.

The amendment was then put and declared lost.

At the request of Sir Christopher Nixon, the names and numbers were taken down, when it appeared that 3 voted for, 14 against, 4 did not vote, and 10 were absent.

The resolution was then put and agreed to.

WELCOME HELP.

We acknowledge with many thanks the following donations towards the expenses of the Nurses' Registration Bill:—

	£	s.	d.
The Dowager Lady Loch ...	1	1	0
Anon (A Matron)	1	1	0
Miss J. Clay, Q.A.I.M.N.S.	1	0	0
Miss E. Emery ...	0	10	0
Miss L. A'ree ...	0	1	0

In the list of new members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, published in our issue last week, No. 2604 should read Miss E. E. E. Pearson, and No. 2,613 Miss A. A'Hern.

A Sick Diet Guild.

The Sick Diet Guild, in Bedford, has had a busy and most useful year's work, and at the special request of the Queen's Nurses, its indefatigable Hon. Superintendent, Mrs. Alfred Paine, has started the soup kitchen and dinners for this year three weeks earlier than usual. There have been 28 cases of Invalid Transport, 27 of which have been personally superintended by Mrs. Paine; five of these cases travelled long distances on her ingenious Carrying Sheet Stretcher.

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