

Stanley of Alderley repeated some of the arguments advanced against the State Registration of Nurses.

The Earl of Onslow (Chairman of Committees) suggested that it would save time if the Bill was reported without amendments and then recommitted. The amendments which the Government intended to move and which were agreed to by the promoters could be accepted and the Bill reprinted in its new form before it was again considered in Committee.

Lord Amptill then moved that all Lord Crewe's amendments be accepted, and the Bill altered accordingly, reserving to himself the right to make amendments to these when the Bill again came before the House.

This was agreed to without discussion.

Lord Amptill then moved that when the Bill was reprinted in its new form it should be again brought before the Committee of the whole House for the discussion of further amendments, including the reconsideration of Ireland being included in the scope of the Bill.

This was unanimously agreed to, and the Committee stage of the Bill was concluded until the Autumn Session.

Those present were struck by the remarkable consensus of opinion on both sides of the House of Lords that some Bill must be passed for the Registration of Nurses. And this doubtless explains the immense trouble which the Privy Council has been good enough to take in considering this measure, and for which the nursing profession cannot be too grateful.

The proposed exclusion of Ireland from the scope of the Act, which has taken all those interested in the Bill completely by surprise, is due, we understand, not to the initiative of the Government in London, but to the Irish Government, advised by the Local Government Board in Ireland.

The opposition to this proposed exclusion in the House of Lords was so strong that we are sure Irish Nurses have only to resist it, and to show the Local Government Board in Ireland that the great body of nurses in Ireland, who are outside its control, are determined to secure legal status, in order to be reinstated in the Bill. They have just three months before Parliament meets again in which to effect this.

The careful consideration of the Bill evidenced in these Amendments is proof that the Government regards it seriously, and its promoters are grateful to Lord Crewe and the Privy Council for devoting so much time to its consideration, in the midst of the pressure of work inseparable from the close of the Session, which is now so near.

## The Royal Sanitary Institute Congress at Cardiff.

### FIRST PAPER.

Twelve hundred members and delegates took part in the meeting at Cardiff last week. With so large a number present it was inevitable that the different sections should meet in the various halls at hours which made it impossible to be present at all the interesting discussions following on the printed papers. This annual meeting is one which has come of late years to have a special interest for nurses, in the first instance from the steadily increasing number of trained members of our profession who are year by year taking the examinations for Health Visitor, School Nurse, and Inspector of Nuisances, promoted by the Institute and the National Health Society; and in the second place from the gradually—very gradually—broadening views of individual nurses on the great subjects of infant mortality, sanitation, hygiene, and other municipal and State matters which ought to, but do not, give serious subject for reflection to every citizen of the State.

It was natural, considering the enormous number of sins covered by the one word "Sanitary," that the papers should be many in number and varied in subject. In this paper I propose to touch upon general matters of interest to nurses, followed by the special question of sanitation in relation to child life. Next week the women's conference and the papers on tuberculosis will have their place.

Industrial legislation, Cremation, Protozoa, Sausages, Death Certificates. Of the first I write only in order to mention what few of us probably know, that the first Factory Act, that of 1802, was passed to lessen as far as was then possible the horrible sufferings, both moral and physical, inflicted in the water-mills of the period upon child-workers, some of whom our present medical men would consider barely old enough for the infant school. Captain Owen Edwards quoted the following from Sir John Gorst's book: "The guardians of the poor sold parish children from five years old and upwards to manufacturers; these helpless children were conveyed to the manufacturing districts on canal boats in a manner which recalls the horrors of the slave trade; they worked for 16 hours at a stretch; they were fed with the pigs; and the morality was awful."

Cremation and the Death Certificate are both of them practical points for nurses. We are frequently called upon to deal with the seamy side of life as well as with its sorrowful

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