

the fact that a hospital certificate, once given to the nurse, becomes her own private property, and cannot be cancelled or withdrawn whatever she does. There is often difficulty in tracing nurses who once leave their hospital employment. They lose touch with the hospitals, and from that follows an opportunity to forge certificates and testimonials.

I specially wish to call attention to the fact that the public are not only powerless to protect themselves against persons who pose as nurses without efficient knowledge, but by a decision of the Appeal Court they are powerless to protect themselves if they suffer injury by the negligence or gross carelessness of the nurse. The question was brought up some time ago, when a Nursing Institution was sued by a patient who had been most severely injured by a nurse. The Institution supplied the nurse and were paid for her, and the Jury gave a verdict of £200 damages against the Institution. The Institution appealed to the Court of Appeal, who held that the employer was responsible; that the Nursing Institution only sent out the nurse to the patient, and then she became one of the employes of the patient, and if the patient was injured—the patient being the nurse's employer—the patient was responsible for any damage.

There are three Bills before the House of Commons, and I have been asked to point out, with regard to the Bill introduced by Lord Amptill and passed through the House of Lords, and now introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Munro-Ferguson, that the provisions have been accepted by the Privy Council, the Local Government Board, the Admiralty, and the War Office, all of whom have made valuable amendments. That is the Bill introduced by Mr. Munro-Ferguson.

The second Bill flatters the promoters of the movement by adopting most of their clauses, which is the sincerest form of flattery, and I think the only difference is that the second Bill requires a larger Council, as it asks for a Council of twenty-seven, and the Privy Council considers it should not consist of more than sixteen. The second Bill also provides for a lower fee for examination. The third Bill is a Bill for Scotland alone, and Sir William Macewen, the distinguished Scottish surgeon, has been good enough to come to London in order to express the feelings of Scottish doctors and nurses with regard to it.

SIR WILLIAM MACEWEN ASKS FOR REGISTRATION
BY A SINGLE PORTAL SYSTEM FOR THE
UNITED KINGDOM.

SIR WILLIAM MACEWEN, Glasgow, said: Sir, Not being a member of either of the societies promoting the two British Registration of Nurses Bills at present before Parliament, I should have had no place on the deputation had it not been for the very cordial invitation extended to me from various quarters on the understanding that I am to express my own views and those of a considerable number of doctors and nurses in Scotland relative to State Registration. They are entirely in accord with the aim of both British Nurses' Registration Bills in desiring to secure State Registration of nurses by a single portal system for the United Kingdom. They desire to

obtain for the nurses a recognised standard of teaching and examination for the Three Kingdoms, and that all nurses placed on the British Nurses' Register should have equal rights to practise as nurses in any part of the United Kingdom. The reason why so many nurses recorded their votes for separate Registration for Scotland was due to the widespread misapprehension of the clauses of the British Bills. Most of the Scotch nurses had at that time not seen the British Nurses' Bills, and the statements which were current concerning them were erroneous and misleading, as, for instance, that the Scottish nurses would require to go to London to be examined, thus causing them to incur a considerable expense. In neither of the British Bills before Parliament is there such a proposal. On the contrary, each of these Bills has clauses dealing with the establishment of examining boards at different centres throughout the kingdom, and the Royal British Nurses' Association has already had this arrangement at work. For instance, a board under its control, with examiners from England and Scotland sitting conjointly, have held examinations in Glasgow, and performed their work in a thoroughly practical and efficient manner. The result of explaining the character of the British Nurses' Registration Bills by means of distribution of copies of these Bills and by letters to the local Press has been a decided change in the attitude of the Scottish nurses towards the one portal system for the United Kingdom, so that many of those who previously signed in favour of the separate Scottish Registration Bill have now signed in favour of a single portal system. As an example, I may instance one hospital in Glasgow having about 150 nurses on the staff, the majority of whom had previously signed for separate Registration for Scotland; 120 of these have now signed in favour of a single portal system for the United Kingdom. In addition, the Superintendent, the Matron, and the Assistant Matrons have each supported the movement. This is not an isolated instance. It Glasgow alone we have had about 600 signatures of doctors and nurses in favour of a single portal system for the United Kingdom. A separate Scottish Bill would act as a barrier to the progress of the Scottish nurse. If the Scottish nurses were to have separate Registration that would confine them to Scotland. If they desire to practise in England they would require to pass a second examination, before being admitted to the British Register. A reciprocal clause of Registration would not likely be passed, as it would meet with strong opposition from the predominant partner who would not be benefited by reciprocity, and probably would be damaged thereby. Even were such reciprocity granted legally, it would not do away with the feeling that would be aroused that the Scottish nurses did not pass the British standard of examination, and such a statement would not facilitate the gaining of appointments for Scottish nurses South of the Tweed. It would be stupid for a Scottish nurse going with a patient from Scotland to England to become suddenly an unregistered nurse with no recognition as a trained nurse the moment she crossed the Border. The

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