

sick in their charge, and not to provide a thorough education for nurses.

These schools are not organised primarily in the interests of nursing education, but because Committees find that by their agency the cheapest and most satisfactory nursing labour is obtainable. It is this fact which justifies the use of public funds, which these Committees are entrusted to administer for the efficient care of the sick, on maintaining nurse training schools, and any personal malice on the part of hospital administrators in limiting their usefulness would soon react prejudicially upon the hospitals and dry up the stream of public charity.

The Scottish Committee acknowledge that it is the *training* not the *examination* of a nurse which constitutes her qualification, but fail to recognise that examination by an independent authority is the only available test of what that training consists, and of whether a nurse has profited by training. To keep up any standard of education there must, in justice to the nurses, be an impartial examination by an independent educational authority.

In reference to the charge of "impertinence" above-mentioned, we may justly regard it as an impertinence on the part of a body which, as we shall show, has proved itself so ignorant of the history of the constitution of the Council defined in Lord Amptill's Bill to criticise its composition.

The Scottish pamphlet states:—"For some inexplicable reason Lord Amptill's Bill ignores the hospitals."

Lord Amptill's Bill, as introduced into the House of Lords on June 23rd, 1908, contained the following clause (7):—"The Council shall consist of nineteen persons, to be appointed or elected as follows: (a) Three persons to be appointed by His Majesty's Privy Council to represent the training schools for nurses in the United Kingdom, one to represent England and Wales, one to represent Scotland, and one to represent Ireland."

THE INEXPLICABLE REASON.

When this Bill was discussed in Committee by the House of Lords on July 21st, the Earl of Crewe, K.G., Leader of the House, at that time acting for the late Lord Tweedmouth, Lord President of the Council, made a general statement with regard to the attitude of His Majesty's Government towards this measure, and said: "A bulky sheaf of amendments has been placed on the paper in my name, but, of course on behalf of the Privy Council." Lord Crewe then proposed that these amendments should be accepted *en bloc*, with a view to the Bill being reprinted, so that their effect could be made clear, the Bill recommitted, and con-

sidered in that form at a future time. This was agreed to, and the reprinted Bill contained, on the motion of the Privy Council, the following clause in place of the one above quoted:—

4.—(1) "The Council shall consist of fifteen persons to be appointed or elected as follows: (a) Three persons to be appointed by the Privy Council, of whom one at least shall be a woman."

This is the "inexplicable reason"—the Privy Council declined to be restricted in the selection of its representatives, and had those who drafted the pamphlet on behalf of the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland followed the Debate on the Bill in the House of Lords, they could not have committed themselves to so ignorant, or so purposely misleading, a statement. The truth is that until the Nurses' Registration Bill was passed by the House of Lords the officials of Scottish hospitals took little interest in the question, and the hastily drafted Bill, introduced on behalf of the newly-formed Association by Mr. J. W. Cleland, M.P., is *au fond* not a Nurses' Registration Bill, but a Bill to deprive nurses of privileges granted to them by the House of Lords.

(To be concluded.)

Uniform for L.C.C. School Nurses

The London County Council has decided to provide its School Nurses with an official uniform, which will include overalls of lilac print to be worn in the schools, a neat bonnet of dark blue straw trimmed with velvet, and two small strips of gold braid as a distinguishing mark that the nurses work for the L.C.C.; and a summer and a winter cloak. The latter is provided with a lappet to prevent exposure of the chest to cold. The uniform is dignified as well as quiet and unobtrusive, and has been made by a first class firm.

A concert followed by an informal dance will be held at the "Horns" Hotel Assembly Rooms, Kennington (near the Oval Station), in aid of the School Nurses' League Benevolent Fund, on Friday, November 26th, at 7.30 p.m. The following artistes will take part in the concert: Mr. Percy Banks, Mr. Arnold, Mr. H. M. Collinson, Mr. Roger Eley, Mr. Charles Williams, Miss Lilian Clark, Miss Constance Wrigley, Miss Baldock, Mr. Harry Willis and Mr. Bob Ison, humourists, and Mr. and Mrs. Young, humorous duettists; accompanists, Miss Jewell Layton and Mr. J. Williams. Tickets, price 2s. each, can be obtained from Miss Griffin, Secretary, School Nurses' League, 84, Wanstead Park Road, Ilford.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)