

Prime Minister, said: Sir, you see nearly all of those most connected with the nursing of the sick represented here. There are two vested interests affected by the State Registration of Nurses—those of unqualified nurses, and those of one or two hospitals which—I do not think the word is too strong—exploit the nurses for the financial benefit of the hospitals. Trained and skilled nurses are as essential to the community as trained and skilled medical men, and unqualified nurses are as much a danger to the patients as unqualified medical men.

We do not ask that there should be an exclusive right to nurse by registered nurses, but that there should be a distinction between those who are trained and those who are not. There is no hope of getting young girls to go through a period of long and tedious training without any subsequent status. The public interest must be the first care, and as a medical man I know of no greater danger to the public than unqualified nurses. Further, nurses registered coming to this country from those of our Dominions and Colonies where registration is in force receive no recognition of their qualifications. We think that if facilities were given for the passing of a Nurses' Registration Bill in this country it would fall into line with other countries to the benefit both of the public and the nurses.

#### SIR VICTOR HORSLEY VOICES MEDICAL OPINION.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY: Sir, four years ago you very courteously received a Deputation from practically the same people who are again before you. I claim on behalf of the British Medical Association that it is the only society which can be said to represent the medical profession. We feel the more justified in urging our proposal because we know of no resolution having been passed against it by any gathering of medical men or of the nursing profession. Last time you told us we were not unanimous because you held in your hand a list of names of persons not in accord with our views, and that you could not accede to our request. We claim that our request is a democratic one, made constitutionally, and that the bureaucratic opposition is put forth unconstitutionally. As a medical man I do not consider that medical experts on public business should be anonymous. I consider that the opposition should be public.

We stand on a stronger footing than on the last occasion, because since 1909 the Government has re-established the registration of teachers. The registration of teachers is an extremely difficult matter; the registration of nurses is as simple as the other is complicated. It could be carried out quite easily by a central council through a one portal system. The medical profession recognize the benefit of registration in their own case, and they want to see the same advantages granted to the nursing profession. Medical work is now becoming very imperial. The medical profession has reciprocity with the

Dominions; and the same is needed by nurses, who complain of the disadvantages to which they are subjected for the lack of it.

We hope that you, Sir, will see your way to acceding to our request, and, on behalf of the Government, to accept the view that State Registration of Nurses is expedient in the public interest.

#### MISS COX-DAVIES PRESENTS THE MATRONS' AND NURSES' CASE.

MISS R. COX-DAVIES: Sir,—May I be permitted to place before you some of the reasons, why members of the Nursing Profession support the petition that the Government will give facilities for the consideration of the Nurses' Registration Bill in the House of Commons?

It is now twenty years ago since the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, which I have the honour to represent, adopted as one of its chief objects—a uniform system of education, with State Registration of trained nurses in the United Kingdom.

Urgent as the need was then, it is infinitely more urgent now. Demands are now made in every direction for trained nurses to fill most responsible positions. This is not only the case, both at home and abroad, under Government Departments, but also in civil appointments. We may fairly say that the trained nurse, both as a preventive agent and as assisting, under the guidance of the medical profession, in the care and cure of disease is recognised as an indispensable public servant.

It is therefore of paramount importance to the community not only that the supply of nurses should be adequate, but also that they should be efficiently educated for their responsible duties, so that the public may readily be able to distinguish those who can furnish evidence of professional skill attested by a central authority, from those who are unable to give such a guarantee.

In this connection, Sir, I would ask you to note that a less responsible and well-educated class of young woman is available for training at the present time than that obtainable a few years ago, and yet it is from the nurses of to-day that the future Sisters and Matrons must be selected. It is imperative to get the best type of women to train. These now need some amount of encouragement to enter for training, owing to the lack of status given them, when trained. After three or four years' study and experience nurses pass out of hospital into various branches of their profession and find themselves in keen competition with semi-trained and unreliable persons, who in many instances have been found totally unsuitable for even supervised work in hospital.

Intelligent, well-educated women in sufficient numbers will not run the risk and discredit of associating and being classed with non-skilled workers.

To illustrate this shortage in suitable candidates for training, I would very briefly draw your

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