

doctors, or even amongst nurses. We are—I am sorry to say—I wish it were otherwise—face to face with the position we were in four years ago. I do not controvert your arguments, or even say that I do not in a large measure agree with the views presented to me, but looking at the question as I am obliged to look at it, I cannot treat it as a measure which would have a smooth and easy course. I am obliged to have regard to the exigencies of the Parliamentary position, and if the Government were to give facilities in favour of this measure it would probably excite opposition and take up a good deal of time. Until you have therefore—I do not say, annihilated—but substantially mitigated, the opposition I cannot honestly say that any Government could give facilities—that is to say, Government time—for a Bill of so distinctly controversial a character.

I have spoken plainly because it is best to tell the honest truth, but you must not think that what I have said indicates any lack of sympathy with the object which you have in view. It is most desirable that the medical and nursing professions should arrive at something more nearly approaching a concordat than is the case at present. The only practical suggestion I can make is that it might be desirable to take into counsel some of the more authoritative of your opponents, and, by some modification of the scheme, elaborate proposals which would obtain substantial consent. If this were attained you would have no more ardent sympathisers than the Government.

DR. CHAPPLE said that there was unanimity amongst the medical and nursing organisations, and he did not see how it would be possible to obtain unanimity amongst individuals, more especially amongst opponents who had a vested interest in untrained nurses. For instance, it would be impossible to get the support of the Chairman of the London Hospital. That hospital sent out probationers to whom they paid £28 a year as private nurses, for whom they might receive £100. It was impossible to get a hospital committee of that kind to support the movement because they had a vested interest.

The PRIME MINISTER inquired whether Dr. Chapple meant that good nurses were not obtained from the London Hospital, and Dr. Chapple replied that they sent out probationers and drew £2 2s. a week for them. The Prime Minister said they must hear the other side, and Dr. Chapple replied that there was no disputing the facts; he knew of one nurse who was only a year and ten months before being sent out. Mr. Asquith said he would communicate what Dr. Chapple had said to the chairman of the hospital, and Dr. Chapple replied that he would be very glad.

ON THE WAY TO VICTORY.

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY reminded the Prime Minister that when the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Nurses' Registration took evidence in 1904 and 1905 only one Matron in the whole of the United Kingdom amongst the

members of the Nursing Profession said to be opponents of State Registration submitted herself to cross-examination. The opposition would not face the supporters of State Registration of Nurses in the open. On one occasion Mr. Sydney Holland had addressed a public meeting of nurses, and found himself in disagreement with them.

MR. ASQUITH'S last words were significant ones:—

"That shows you are on the way to victory."

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, on behalf of the Deputation, proposed a vote of thanks to the Prime Minister for receiving them in so courteous a manner, and especially for his expression of opinion that he had been very much impressed by the arguments which had been put forward.

This was passed by acclamation, and the Deputation then withdrew.

The foregoing report is an almost verbatim account of the proceedings. Next week we hope to publish our editorial comments, for which we have not space this week.

The members of the Deputation were most kindly entertained to tea in Room B at the House of Commons by Mr. Munro Ferguson, when Lady Helen Munro Ferguson presided, and the delegates present from the three kingdoms had an opportunity of discussing informally the Registration position.

THE NURSING OF THE INSURED SICK.

We have received, as we go to press, a very important document from the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute dealing with the nursing of the insured sick, which, we regret, it is impossible to publish this week. We hope to deal with it in our next issue, as this JOURNAL is, we believe, the only one which has publicly claimed the right of the insured sick, who pay for the benefits which they receive, to thoroughly skilled nursing.

THE DUBLIN NURSING CONFERENCE.

ORDER OF EVENTS.

June 3rd.—Reception of Guests in Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin.

June 4th to 6th.—Conference and Exhibition organized by the Irish Nurses' Association, Royal College of Physicians, Dublin. Questions of interest to be discussed:—Nursing Education, Preliminary, Reciprocal and Post Graduate Training; State Registration; the Nurses' Registration Bill, its effect on the Nursing Profession, including Hours of Work, Remuneration and Privileges; the Law as it affects Trained Nurses; White Plague (tuberculosis); Black Plague (venereal disease); the Appeal of the Insane; Poor Law Nursing; School Nursing; the Training and Professional Ideals of the Masseuse; the Legal Status of the Midwife; a Just Midwives' Act for Ireland.

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