

was not necessary to impress upon such an audience the need for nurses' registration, but he hoped the splendid meeting would attract attention to the demand of trained nurses.

It was a most astonishing thing that the public, and certainly Cabinet Ministers, did not recognize the supreme importance to themselves, and to the community of thorough training for nurses. If the curriculum of nursing education fell below the three years now recognized as necessary not only did the public who employed nurses suffer from injustice, but they were also overlooking the injustice which was inflicted on nurses who were properly qualified. For that reason he did hope that the Resolution referring to this question, which he was so glad to see on the Agenda of the meeting, would be carried.

Going on to discuss the present situation Sir Victor asked: "How do we stand to get what we want?"

In the first place we wanted the public to know that Mr. Munro Ferguson's Bill did represent absolutely that concordat to which the Prime Minister referred. The public believed that the medical and nursing professions were at loggerheads in regard to the question of nurses' registration. We wanted them to understand that we were absolutely united. But though united on the principle, there might be a difference of opinion as to the best means of securing its enforcement, but here again there was unity, the medical and nursing professions had united in supporting Mr. Munro Ferguson's Bill, on which their hopes were concentrated.

Next, "how was the proposal resisted?" It was curious that a proposal of so much public benefit should be opposed. But the public should know that Nurses' Registration was not resisted openly. No public meetings were held to oppose the proposal, but it was resisted secretly, and secret influence was brought to bear against one of the most humane pieces of legislation ever initiated. Only one alternative had been suggested, and that was that there should not be a statutory directory, but a private directory. Registrationists had always put statutory registration in the forefront of their programme and considered a private directory absolutely useless. The public should understand that the creation of a statutory authority through legislation was essential.

"Were the Government interested?" The Government were overwhelmed with work, and it was quite possible that they regarded the question of nurses' registration as affecting only the interests of a small section of the community. The Deputation, which had recently been received by Mr. Asquith had endeavoured to shew him that it affected the interests of the whole nation.

It was quite true to say that Mr. Asquith had received the Deputation in a friendly spirit, but he evidently needed a little more information. The Prime Minister had produced Mr. Sydney Holland's list of persons opposed to nurses' registration, published years ago, but when he (the speaker)

made enquiry amongst surgeons who were his friends, and told them that their names appeared on the list, they said it was impossible, that they had never given their names in opposition to nurses' registration. He wished to emphasise the fact that this was an old list, and did not represent present opinion.

Their indefatigable friend, Dr. Chapple, had put a question to the Prime Minister in the House of Commons in respect to the abuse of nurses' uniform, as to "whether, in view of the growing frequency of this abuse, he will, pending the extension of the franchise to women, take any steps, by legislation or otherwise, to protect the nursing profession in this respect."

Mr. McKenna, who stated he had been asked by the Prime Minister to answer the question, said that the matter was receiving attention, but it presented very serious difficulties.

Sir Victor said that he knew of no difficulties such as those which presented themselves to Mr. McKenna's mind. His attitude was one of want of full information.

The outcome of meetings of this kind should be to help in the work of enlightenment, and he suggested that the Society should undertake, as part of its work, the organisation of a group of Members of Parliament to support its aims. He next asked: "Can we interest Ministers more directly?" He thought Mr. John Burns should be interviewed respecting the shortage of Poor Law Nurses. He was always ready to listen; and good might be done by going to him. Then let a Deputation go to Mr. McKenna, and remove those difficulties which were in his mind.

Sir Victor asked if it would not be possible, through the members of the Nurses' Leagues, to set to work to get the name of every practising nurse—perhaps not their shillings, because shillings were scarce—but their support. If it were possible for Mr. Ferguson to say that he represented a very large number of the nursing profession, this would be a great factor in securing success.

This great movement for the recognition of women's work should be associated with the great uplifting movement for women's enfranchisement. If such enfranchisement were secured, those working for the Registration of Trained Nurses would see the rapid accomplishment of their wishes, and the passing of an Act which would be of incalculable benefit to the community.

The Chairman said she felt sure the audience would wish to thank Sir Victor Horsley for his admirable address by acclamation, and agreed that much more could be done for the registration cause. There had been almost super-human efforts on the part of the few and apathy on the part of the many.

Their Society had the sympathy and support of the National Union of Women Workers, which included thousands of women of every class of the community.

A printed list of all nurses in favour of State Registration would be useful. At the same time,

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