

we knew beforehand, from past experience, that many were so economically dependent that they dare not give their names. Those in training in the opposing hospitals dare not do so because they had their certificates to gain, and afterwards their livings to earn. Working women were not free agents—although it was a hopeful sign of the times that even nurses were passing out of the dependent and timorous stage.

The movement needed more money, in order to prosecute its propaganda; and nurses had given generously for many years. It also needed the sympathy of the press. It had treated the movement very unjustly, excluding letters and articles in favour, whilst publishing anti-registration views, thus withholding information from the public, which it was the duty of an independent press to present.

The Chairman then invited the Right Hon. R. C. Munro Ferguson, M.P., who had been a friend to the Registration Cause for so many years, to address the meeting.

SPEECH BY MR. MUNRO FERGUSON, M.P.

Mr. Munro Ferguson expressed his regret that he had not been able to do more to secure the passage of the Bill in the House of Commons.

He further expressed approval of an effort being made to interest Cabinet Ministers in the Registration Question. There was no doubt that the Prime Minister had been supplied with a good deal of information from the other side.

The State Registration Society was highly organised in London. It could hardly be better organised, but perhaps more could be done locally. If he himself had not been in the hands of a member of Sir Victor Horsley's profession and had a trained nurse, he would not have known much about the subject.

Then candidates for election as Members of Parliament might be interested. At election times they were very tractable, and interviews could always be secured, in which they could be dealt with thoroughly.

The opposition in London was very difficult to control. It was highly concentrated, and the back stairs influence was wonderful. He had no doubt that every Minister had been supplied with information by the opponents of State Registration.

Then a large number of Members should be asked to ballot for the Bill, and this, again, might be done in the constituencies. If twenty or thirty Members were balloting for the Bill it would have a much better chance. Mr. Munro Ferguson reminded the meeting that a Bill had already been passed by the House of Lords, and gave the wise advice not to trust only to one Party, but to endeavour to interest members on all sides of the House. It was not a Party question. With Dr. Chapple working inside and Sir Victor Horsley outside the House, good progress should be made. If only a day could be secured for the discussion of the Bill, he was hopeful of success.

SPEECH BY DR. CHAPPLE, M.P.

Dr. W. A. Chapple, M.P., said that he was not very hopeful of the prospects of a Private Member's Bill. Of the 400 Members probably balloting for places only a few could win. He thought the chief hope was to get the Government to take up the question. Any private Member fortunate enough to obtain a place had generally five or six other Bills up his sleeve. He thought the Government were ready for further information.

Sir Victor Horsley had mentioned the question which he had put in the House of Commons of the 9th inst. as to the abuse of nurses' uniform. He had also put a supplementary question to Mr. McKenna: "Is the Right Hon. gentleman aware that where Nurses' Registration has been adopted this abuse is almost unknown?" and Mr. McKenna's answer was: "I am not aware, but will inquire." He (Dr. Chapple) had replied that he would be glad to give the information.

He thought Mr. McKenna was sympathetic to the question of Nurses' Registration, and, as an anti-suffragist he might be impressed by the argument that it was the bounden duty of those Ministers who were opposed to Women's Suffrage to see that women suffered no political disadvantage.

He thought the propaganda should be pushed forward. The other side had no arguments, but used subterranean methods of getting at Ministers and poisoning their minds against the Registration movement.

Opposing Ministers regarded it as a sectional and monopolistic movement, by which nurses desired to get an advantage for themselves. They did not realise that it was one primarily in the interest of the whole community, which was at present greatly imposed upon.

An American friend had once told him that he always insisted that his medical man should have a British degree. He was an able and patriotic American, and when he asked the reason, his friend replied that he believed America had the best medical schools and the best doctors in the world, but he did not know the difference between the good and the inadequate degrees. A British degree was a guarantee that a man had gone through a regular course of training, and he therefore knew that he was not in great danger because of the inexperience of anyone holding a British qualification.

The same argument applied to nursing. To-day the only evidence that a woman was a trained nurse was that she wore a uniform. Private inquiry advocated by some, was useless. It might elicit whether a nurse was good-natured, an early riser or a late sitter, but it would not produce evidence of the professional competence which was as essential to-day in a nurse as in a doctor. Nursing had not kept pace with progress in this respect, and the sooner Parliament and the public realised it the better. Mr. Ferguson had his Bill, and they intended to push on legislation. Next year the House of Commons having disposed of certain Bills might have more time at its disposal, and be

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