

but it does prevent these women claiming to have been fully trained in a hospital when they have not been so trained. Not many years ago a negro kept a house in London, put women into it, supplied them with nurses' uniform and plied them out as nurses, although it was afterwards found to be nothing more than a place which was kept for immoral purposes. Not long ago there was a woman prosecuted for practising as a certificated nurse and falsely claiming to have been trained in the London Hospital. In this way the sick are imposed upon and exorbitantly charged, and in many cases they are injured in health on account of the false claims put forward by these impostors. Massage houses, private hospitals and quack hospitals now issue certificates. A nurse may go into any hospital for a few months and then go out and claim to have been trained. There is no minimum standard, and no way of protecting the sick from the impostures which are being carried on. In this matter the poor suffer the most, because the rich can afford to make many inquiries. The Insurance Act has made nurses more necessary than before. Greater claims are made upon them, and the establishment of sanatoria and the practice under the Insurance Act have shown that there is an immense shortage of nurses, especially amongst the poor. Then we have the abuse of the nursing uniform. Even prostitutes find it profitable to trade upon the fair name of nurses in order to prosecute their calling. There was a time when nurses boasted that if they were dressed in their uniform they could go to any slum in London with impunity and without suspicion, but they cannot do that now. I heard the other day of a nurse warning other nurses not to wear their uniforms at railway stations in London, and I have heard it stated that the police look into their faces with suspicion on station platforms. So great is the degradation that nurses are beginning to feel that they are likely to be disgraced by wearing a uniform of which they were once so proud. Who are the people opposing this measure? Simply those who have a vested interest in the money value of untrained and undertrained nurses. The head and front of this opposition is the London Hospital. I want to say one or two things about the London Hospital, because that is the only great hospital in Great Britain that actively opposes registration and exploits nurses for its own financial advantage.

Sir George Younger: That is a serious charge.

Dr. Chapple: Yes; it is a very serious charge, and I will prove it. The London Hospital gives a certificate to a nurse at the end of two years' training, when it is recognised by all the great hospitals that three years is a necessary curriculum, and that no nurse can be properly trained unless she has stayed for at least three years at a hospital. At many large hospitals, four years is required, and all other great hospitals require three years. The London Hospital gives a certificate to nurses at the end of two years—

Sir Godfrey Baring: Is the Hon. Member in order in introducing all these charges under the Ten Minutes' Rule?

Mr. Speaker: The proper course in introducing a Bill is to state what the Clauses are, and not to make attacks upon institutions which have no representatives here to defend them. The hon. Member has only one minute more in which to explain his Bill.

Dr. Chapple: Perhaps I am entitled to say that if a hospital gives only two years' training, and in the third year sends out nurses and pays them 11s. 6d. per week while they are earning two guineas per week, and then opposes a Bill which would make that impossible, I think I have a right to say that—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is now going back to the argument which I have just ruled out of order.

Dr. Chapple: I will only say then that a Select Committee has already reported in favour of the registration of nurses; that the General Medical Council is in its favour; that the British Medical Association supports it, and that all the societies of trained nurses are in favour of it. It was recently declared by the right hon. and learned Member for the Walton Division (Mr. F. E. Smith) that if there is any wrong which women suffer, they can depend upon this House giving them redress. I now appeal to this House to make that statement good, and remove an injustice to the sick and an injustice to women by granting leave to introduce this Bill. This measure is for the protection of the sick and for the protection of women. The great training hospitals in our midst give a full curriculum, and give no certificates until three years' training has been fulfilled. I beg to move—

Mr. Booth: I appeal to the House not to accede to my hon. Friend's request—

Viscount Castlereagh: May I ask whether it is necessary for an Hon. Member who rises to oppose the Bill to divide the House?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member has stated that he opposes this Bill, and he can divide the House upon it. If an Hon. Member begins his speech by saying that he opposes a measure, I am bound to hear him.

Mr. Booth: The Noble Lord interrupted me almost before I had said a sentence.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. Member does not recollect an incident which occurred about a fortnight ago, when possibly he was not present. By reason of what occurred then, the Noble Lord has now applied to me in the way he has done.

Mr. Booth: I intended to make it clear that I was opposing this Bill, and I think I started in no undecided way. I appealed to the House not to accede to my hon. Friend's request, and I am not going to run away from my position; and if the Noble Lord will tell with me, I will certainly go to a Division. I will not discuss the references which have been made to the London Hospital, except to say that I think that that alone would entitle us to oppose this Bill as a mark of protest against the attack made upon that institution. I quite admit my hon. Friend has brought this Bill in with the best intention, but he overstated

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