

THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

We refer on page 91 to the proceedings before the Local Legislation Committee of the House of Commons in reference to the registration of lying-in homes proposed by the London County Council. Part V. of the Bill, concerning which evidence was offered on July 14th, deals with the Nursing Homes and Massage establishments. Mr. Clode, K.C., who opened the case, said that the Council sought the power of registration, inspection, and regulation by bye-law. He stated at once that it of course recognised that many nursing institutions were doing a beneficial and useful work in London, but they could not be blind to the fact that some were putting out advertisements which led them to suppose that something more than medical treatment was being provided by them. Also an extraordinary variety of treatments was given at the same address by the same person—massage, musical lessons, fencing, dancing, foreign languages, furnished apartments, all advertised as being given at this obscure address in some shy part of London.

In 1913 the Council received a communication from the Commissioner of the Police inviting its serious attention to the fact that many establishments where massage, manicure and electric treatment were undertaken were no more than disorderly houses.

The result was that the Council proposed to introduce a Bill dealing with the question, and the Bill, as introduced, contained the proposal that the powers sought should be exercised by the County Council.

Counsel mentioned that certain Borough Councils desired that they should be the registering authority. A great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed by those who would come under this jurisdiction. The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland expressed by resolution its indignation and regret that it was proposed to transfer the powers of administration to the Borough Councils as an extension of their powers under the Disorderly Houses Act, and petitioned the County Council not to cast so grave a slur on a section of the nursing profession which is rendering indispensable service to the public. The Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses also objected to the duties of registration and inspection being deputed to the Borough Councils, and a further petition was received from Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing Homes.

In conclusion, Mr. Clode submitted that the evidence which would be called was overwhelming, that something must be done in the interests of public morality.

The first witness called was Mr. Percy Simmons Vice-Chairman, and at one time Chairman, of the Public Control Committee of the L.C.C., who stated that there were a large number of well conducted establishments which welcomed the

Council's proposals. The witness gave an instance of a girl employed at a genuine nursing home who went to what she believed to be a genuine massage establishment, but was used for purposes of prostitution. There were seven girls in the place, and they received five shillings a week from the proprietress, subject to fines. She never charged less than a guinea for each man that a girl attended to. Sometimes a girl attended five a day.

The testimony of Mr. Simmons and of other witnesses was conclusive that there was no evidence that the great majority of nursing homes were carried on in other than a proper manner. They were not originally included in the scope of the Bill, but it was suggested by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee that unless they were so included all these places would call themselves nursing homes and the legislation would be useless.

The Hon. Frank Trevor Bigham, who gave evidence on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, drew attention to the case of Queenie Gerald, who advertised "Hospital trained nurses in attendance." Another case was that in which two respectable girls were sent by an employment agency to one of these establishments. The proprietress told them that her "nurses" got roughly £10 to £20 a week in tips. She further told one of the girls she would have to wear a nurse's uniform. She had had two nurses, but she had to make a change, and get fresh faces.

Mr. Bigham said the police had no information whatever as to any nursing home having been improperly conducted.

Other witnesses were Miss Lucy Robinson, one of the founders of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses; Miss K. M. M. McGuinness, an inspector of employment agencies, and Mr. John Hunt, Town Clerk of the City of Westminster, who said that they had unfortunately a large number of brothels of various kinds in the City. They had a special watcher and other officers, but they had not had a single instance of a nursing home being used for the purposes of prostitution.

THE "TABLOID" TRIANGULAR BANDAGE.

One of the latest "Tabloids" put upon the market by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., who have achieved a well-deserved fame for their Tabloid products is the "Tabloid" Triangular Bandage, which is compressed into the size of a match box so that it can be carried in the pocket of the first-aid man without inconvenience. It is customary to print illustrations representing the method of application upon the bandage. In connection with the "Tabloid" triangular bandage a striking advance has been made in their quality and clearness. They are plain, precise, complete, and in accordance with the latest practice. The retail price of this bandage per packet of two is 1s. 9d., and for the sterilized variety an extra penny.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)