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**EDITORIAL.**

**A TRIUMPH FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF TRAINED NURSES.**

The announcement of the elimination of Nursing Homes from the scope of the London County Council's (General Powers) Bill for the Registration and Inspection of Nursing Homes, in conjunction with Massage Houses, Lying-in Homes, and similar institutions, will be received with sincere satisfaction by the many highly skilled nurses who own and superintend such homes in the area of the County of London. As we report in another column, the Earl of Donoughmore (Chairman of Committees), before whom all Bills must go, was of opinion that the special evils which Part V of the Bill is designed to remedy are practically non-existent in Nursing Homes, and was unwilling that a slight should be cast on the honourable profession of nursing, and so struck out the word nursing.

It will be remembered, by our readers, that a deputation from the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, on December 11th, 1913, was received by the Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council, when a Report was presented by the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. The result has proved the importance, and value, of a professional organization which watches proposed legislation, and, when necessary, takes action in relation to it. This the President of the National Council considers her special contribution to professional organization.

In introducing the deputation and presenting the Report, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick emphasised the fact that it was there in a spirit of co-operation, not of hostility, with a desire to assist the London County Council to make the legislation it proposed to introduce as effective as possible.

The clause in the Report which has proved of primary importance was one drawing attention to the adverse effect on Nursing Homes which would be occasioned by any association of such homes with disorderly houses in the public mind. The deputation therefore asked that the London County Council would

differentiate between professionally managed Homes and the commercial or objectionable ventures. What was plainly of paramount importance in the mind of the Committee was the suppression of the very serious evil of disorderly houses, run under the guise of massage establishments. There is no evidence that Nursing Homes are implicated in this scandal, and therefore provisions applicable to the suppression of bogus massage establishments are quite unsuited to the registration of nursing homes, concerning which the point to be secured is the maintenance of adequate professional and sanitary standards through professional inspection.

The Borough Councils, regarding the Massage Houses mainly as houses of ill-fame, claimed that the administration of Part V of the Bill should be deputed to them as an extension of their powers in dealing with disorderly houses, and the Parliamentary Committee of the London County Council, desiring to placate the Borough Councils, passed a resolution proposing that the administration should be given to these Councils if they withdrew their opposition to the Bill. This proposition, however, was not assented to by the Council, and when proposed as an amendment to the Bill in the House of Commons by the Hon. Member for Marylebone it was rejected, both in a mandatory and permissive form.

The importance attached by the London County Council to a Resolution passed by the National Council of Trained Nurses, protesting against the proposal to transfer the powers of administration to the Borough Councils as an extension of their powers under the Disorderly Houses Act is evident, as they printed this Resolution in a paper handed in to the Chairman of the Select Committee, both in its original form, and also as a Petition widely signed by Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing Homes. The attention thus directed to the injustice of casting so grave a slur upon a section of the nursing profession rendering indispensable service to the public, has no doubt influenced the Chairman of Committees, to whom the nursing profession is profoundly indebted, to safeguard its interests under the Bill.

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