

up it would be impossible to focus the expert knowledge of professional and industrial women, which would be of great value to the Ministry and the people. In Committee Sir S. Hoare proposed that "one such Council, to be called the Women's Consultative Council, shall consist entirely of women." He said they were anxious that women should have the fullest and freest opportunity of expressing their views on the various problems dealt with in the Bill. He did not believe that on a mixed council women would really obtain the full representation that their numbers and their interests entitled them to.

Sir Kingsley Wood assured the Committee that on the general administrative council there would be ample opportunity of giving women adequate representation.

Dr. Addison said there must be certain sub-committees which would be composed for certain purposes solely of women, whether the amendment was put into the Bill or not. It was also clear that in respect of general purposes some of the councils would have to consist mostly of women; but all the same he should be disappointed if the Committee passed the amendment. It was not desirable to tie the hands of the Minister.

A division was taken, and the amendment was defeated by 22 to 14.

As a member of Lady Rhondda's Watching Committee we support the lost amendment, because as a professional woman we consider expert nursing and midwifery opinion will not be sufficiently represented on a mixed committee. Experience teaches us that the "gifted amateur" and socially influential and often ignorant woman is quite prepared to deal with our affairs without consulting us in any way. Let us hope the value of expert opinion in relation to health, other than medical opinion, which is to be quite rightly specially provided for, will be carefully considered when the Consultative Councils are appointed.

COMING EVENTS.

March 28th.—House of Commons. Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill, promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses.

March 29th.—Scottish Nurses' Club: Annual Meeting, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow. 3.0 p.m.

March 31st.—Irish Nurses' Association Meeting, to consider the present position of Irish Nurses. Chair: The President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. Examination Hall, Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin. 5 p.m.

April 5th.—The Association of Trained Nurses engaged in Public Health Work. Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Members' Club Room, Royal British Nurses' Association, 10, Orchard Street, London, W.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"MIDAS AND SON."*

As Sir Aylmer Lancing's car wound between the high banks of rhododendron which skirted the two-mile drive to Ripley Court, he leaned critically forward to catch a glimpse of the preparations for his son's return to England.

"I'm not going in yet," he said, in a deep, measured voice of habitual authority. "Bring me the garden chair and tell Benson that I want him to take me round the place before lunch."

"The footman touched his cap and withdrew, to return later with a muscular, professionally cheerful male attendant pulling a bath-chair. Towering over his shoulder, Sir Aylmer laboriously climbed down from his car and lowered himself heavily into the chair, which groaned and creaked under his weight. Unobserved by him, the two servants exchanged humorously rueful glances; their master's periodical visits to the garden were conducted in the spirit of a captain's Sunday inspection of his ship."

The above extract will serve to give the reader an idea what manner of man the millionaire was—a fabulously rich, autocratic invalid,

The first evening of young Deryk's return did not augur well for the peaceful relations between them.

He wished to follow up his University career with a fellowship. His father had other views for him.

"You are only twenty-three, and you have seen very little of the world."

"I don't want to see the beastly world"

He could not stand a crowd of footmen fussing around him, he explains, to account for his disappearance after dinner to do his own unpacking.

"I am half afraid to blow my own nose in this house."

Was Dina Penrose coming to the little dance his father had announced to take place? "I've brought her rather a jolly necklace."

"You must know that a girl of her age can't accept pearls from a man of your age." Besides, during Deryk's absence from home her father had died and here had been a general smash up and Sir Aylmer had found her a position as companion in the neighbourhood.

Deryk, every whit as obstinate as his father, presented the pearl necklace to Dina, the girl whom he had parted with two years ago as a slight, undeveloped girl of nineteen—"the unsentimental companion and willing slave of his holidays." He found her grown a woman with a cloud of fair hair and rather frightened eyes.

The pearls were given in his boyish way.

"You can thank me for them to-night."

"But I shan't see you to-night."

"Yes you will, stupid; it's the ball; dinner eight-thirty."

* By Stephen McKenna. (London: Methuen & Co.)

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