

influence when the Ministry of Health is set up to give this Bill every opportunity of becoming law. I can assure the Government that the promoters of this measure will be only too ready to make it as good a Bill in Committee as they possibly can by accepting any reasonable Amendment. I therefore ask with the greatest confidence the House to give this Bill a Second Reading."

MEDICAL SUPPORT.

MAJOR J. E. MOLSON, M.D. (Gainsborough): "I would like, as a medical man, to give thoroughly strong support to this Bill, and I would ask all Members of this House not to be led aside by going into details on this pressing question. It is merely and broadly a question of the registration of nurses, and I appeal to hon. Members, as a legislative assembly, to look after the health of the public from that point of view. Indeed, it is a most important point of view, because we want to have the nurses registered as a properly qualified profession."

IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC.

I do not ask that this Bill should be passed so much in the interests of nurses as in the interests of the public. That is a very important point. Every one of us recognises it. It is not that I wish to minimise the importance of the nurses, but I would like to press this Bill out of respect for and gratitude to them for all that they have done for us in times past. It is very strange to get up in this Assembly and feel that, while England has been one of the leaders in nursing and medicine for a long time, yet our Colonies are ridiculing and laughing at us because we have not the State Registration of Nurses. They have gone ahead of us in that respect, and I ask the House very sincerely not to delay this very necessary measure any longer, and to pass a Bill for the registration of nurses, leaving the consideration of the smaller details to a later stage. I have been practising for years, and speaking as a result of my own experience, I may say I used to consider that we had three classes of nurses. First there was the old Mother Gamp of the past. The next was the nurse who came in uniform and one never knew how much she knew or did not know. The third class was the nurse for whom I have the very greatest respect—the thoroughly trained nurse. The Mother Gamp nurse did her work very well, and was of great use in the country districts where I practised, and I would not wish to run her down at all. She did her best according to her limitations. But with regard to the nurses who came in uniform, in many cases they knew just enough to be dangerous, and I want this House to legislate against that class of nurse, which this Bill proposes to do.

THE VALUE OF WOMEN NURSES.

We all recognise that nursing is, *prima facie* a quality of women. I have had a fair amount of experience in Army hospitals. I have served in this War in the East, and one of our greatest

difficulties in the Indian hospitals was that there were practically no nurses. I never experienced such difficulty as when I simply had orderlies to carry out the work. We should offer every inducement and every attraction to women to enter the nursing profession. Therefore we should pass this Bill, protect the public against unqualified nurses. I hope there will be no opposition from any quarter of this House to this valuable measure. The whole medical profession is thoroughly in support of securing a good nursing standard. We cannot do our work properly without good nurses. Therefore I appeal to the House to give this Bill a Second Reading. In the interests of the nation, and of the medical and nursing professions, let us have State Registration of Nurses."

THE PROTECTION OF NURSES' UNIFORM.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. E. ROUNDLE (Skip-ton): "I should not have intervened at this stage of this Bill had it not been for the speech of the hon. Member who has just resumed his seat, and who mentioned the question of nurses' uniform. I know there is a considerable amount of feeling on the part of the nursing profession with regard to the question of nurses' uniform. . . . The House knows, we all know, that it is an indictable offence for anybody not a member of His Majesty's Forces, whether in the Navy or the Army, to wear the uniform of those Services. I venture to say that the nurses' uniform is every whit as honourable as that of His Majesty's Forces of the Navy or the Army, to which I have the honour myself to belong, and I hope most sincerely when this Bill goes into Committee steps will be taken to remedy this grievance. I can only say, in conclusion, I strongly support the Second Reading of this Bill."

ESSENTIAL SUCH A BILL SHOULD BE PASSED.

MR. L. LYLE (Stratford): "I ask the kind courtesy and consideration which is always shown to Members who address the House for the first time. I should like to make it quite clear that I approach this subject as one who is absolutely convinced of the necessity that Parliament should pass a measure for the State Registration of Nurses. I am absolutely convinced that in the interests of the nurses themselves and in the interests of the general public, it is essential that such a Bill should be passed. But we cannot all think exactly alike, and, although I am not in any way connected with the College of Nursing, I feel that there are certain objectionable features in this Bill. But I want to make it clear from the very start that I am not going to oppose this Bill. I believe in the principle of State Registration of Nurses. . . .

A war has been required to convince some people of the necessity of doing something for these noble ladies of the nursing profession. But all those of us who have worked in hospitals, and have worked down in the East End, know only too well of the wonderful work which has been carried on by them year in and year out, attending the sick poor and those who are unable

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