

to look after themselves, sacrificing their time and very often their health for a mere pittance by way of salary. I think we ought to look at the matter from this point of view. What do the nurses want? Without a doubt, every one of them, whether they support this particular Bill or the Bill which has been drafted by the College of Nursing, wants State Registration, and I say to the House with some confidence that, however much it may do for nurses, it can never do enough. Therefore, to me it is quite sufficient, when I know that nurses want registration, to say that I shall do everything in my power to give them registration."

Mr. Lyle then criticised the following points in the Bill: (1) That the direct representatives on the General Nursing Council given to England (eight) and Ireland (four) are out of proportion, in regard to the respective populations; (2) that of the direct representatives of the nurses, too great a proportion must be Matrons; (3) that sufficient representation is not given to the managers of voluntary hospitals and poor law infirmaries; (4) that provision is not made for a Supplemental Register of Children's Nurses; (5) that the promoters of the Bill are too largely represented on the Council which is to be set up temporarily; and (6) that the managing committees of the voluntary hospitals and Poor Law infirmaries are unrepresented on that Council. He pleaded that the promoters of the Bill should give these points favourable consideration."

#### STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES A NECESSITY.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL RAW, F.R.C.S., C.M.G. (Wavertree): "I will not detain the House for more than a minute or two in giving my strong support to the great principle embodied in this Bill. The medical profession owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the nursing profession for their co-operation in the work that we have to perform, and Parliament and the whole Empire are under a deep debt of gratitude to the nurses for the work which they have performed in attending our wounded soldiers. For that reason alone, we, as Members of this House, are only anxious to do everything we can to raise the status of the nursing profession and anything which will tend to elevate them in their work. The State registration of nurses is a necessity. The whole profession of nursing has undergone a complete change within the last twenty-five years. The great advances in surgery and medicine have made it necessary that a nurse should be thoroughly trained. She must have undergone very careful and technical training. Having done that, it is necessary that she should be recognised by the State. She ought to be placed on a State register and under the protection of the authority of Parliament. Reference has been made to another Bill which was drafted with the identical purpose of obtaining the State registration of nurses. Members of this House will give all those who promoted that Bill the very highest credit for the object they have in view. It is entirely due to the fortune of the Ballot that this Bill is introduced

and that the Bill proposed by the other party was not introduced. The good fortune of the Ballot has put my hon. and gallant Friend (Major Barnett) in a very enviable position—one that I would have liked to occupy myself—in advocating such a great principle as the State registration of nurses.

The Bill promoted by the College of Nursing was very carefully considered, and in consultation with the authorities on that Bill they decided that they could not and would not oppose the State registration of nurses or offer any opposition whatever to this Bill. I have authority to state on behalf of those interested in the other Bill that no opposition will be offered to the great principle of the State registration of nurses, which we all very much desire to see. But, of course, we reserve to ourselves the right to criticise, and possibly to amend, in Committee, many of the points on which we are not in agreement. This is a golden opportunity to pass a very much-needed and long-delayed reform. Therefore, I hope the House will give the Bill a Second Reading, so that we may establish the principle we have all desired so long of the State registration of nurses. When this Bill passes, to give it the influence which it deserves, it will have to be taken under the charge and control of the Government itself. I see my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board here. I hope he will be able to give us the assurance that when this Bill passes, as I hope it will very soon, he will be able to announce that the Ministry of Health will take this work under its wing and give it all the protection and authority of a Government Department."

#### THE LABOUR PARTY JOINS IN THE UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF APPROVAL.

MR. F. ROBERTS (West Bromwich): "Speaking on behalf of the Labour Party, I want to join in the unanimous chorus of approval with which the introduction of this measure has been welcomed. There are probably many points of detail which one could criticise and discuss at some length, but we on these benches give the measure every support possible in our power. We are entirely agreed on its general principles, and we feel it has been introduced with the admirable intention of preserving the status of an eminently necessary section of the community. The question of the State registration of nurses is one of extreme importance. The nurses themselves and those associated with them have worked long and patiently for the establishment of this principle. It certainly has surprised me to learn that for something like forty years they have been endeavouring to establish the principle of this important measure. The measure is important not only to nurses but to the public and the medical profession. It is more than ever recognised that now every means must be adopted for the protection and preservation of life. Under the proposals contained in this Bill the nursing profession seems to have the opportunity of becoming a greater

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