

On these general lines I have the greatest pleasure on behalf of the Labour Party in supporting this measure."

THE POINT OF VIEW OF SPARSE POPULATIONS.

MR. J. GARDINER (Kinross and Western): "Most speakers have looked at the subject from the point of view of dense population. I want to speak about the sparse population of Scotland. In these glens, with the people sometimes removed as far as forty miles from any doctor, it is highly desirable that duly qualified nurses should be placed within the reach of the people. In one particular part of my constituency the nearest doctor is forty-two miles, and there is no nurse resident within any part of that area at present. Therefore the question is urgent, and it is not desirable that anyone who happens to wear a nurses' uniform should be admitted to the homes of the people. In many poor homes, because of the lack of money, the cheapest nurse is admitted, and when she has left not only has she gone for the time being, but sometimes she takes with her more than belongs to her, and we want to think a little about the poor people and see that they are protected. . . . From our Highland homes and glens there went forth some of the fairest men to fight our battles. Some of them will never return. Others have come back to us maimed and broken in health. Is it right that these men should be left scrapped miles and miles away from a doctor and with no nurse to attend them? I suggest that the Government should give us every facility and enable us at the earliest possible moment to put the nurses into a position where, by training and otherwise, they will be fitted to help the medical men to the better health of the community."

RELIEF FELT BY NURSES IN IRELAND:

SIR ROBERT WOODS, F.R.C.S.I. (Dublin University): "I should like, as one of the few Irish medical Members of the House, to give expression to the sense of relief with which the news was received in Ireland by nurses and also by medical men that this Bill was about to be introduced. That sense of relief was enhanced by the fact that it was this Bill that was fortunate in the Ballot rather than any other."

Sir Robert then referred to the question of the Bill on the remuneration of nurses, and expressed the opinion that it was perfectly right that this should be one of its effects. From his own knowledge as a medical man, he knew that the determining factors in an enormous number of instances which led women to take up the life of a nurse was that the work was so noble, rather than the emoluments connected with it, which all knew had been far too low in the past.

Sir Robert continued: "I do not intend to touch on points which ought very properly to be raised in Committee, but I cannot allow a criticism which came from the opposite side to pass without comment. It was said that in this proposal

Ireland is so largely represented. I would point out that the representation of a country on a Board of this kind ought not to be measured by the population of that country, but ought to be measured by the number of nurses that the country turns out and puts into the profession. The conditions in Ireland are quite different from the conditions in England. In England there are an enormous number of avenues through which ladies can seek employment of one kind or another. In Ireland, that is not the case, and a far larger proportion of those who enter a profession go into the nursing profession. Ireland, in fact, acts as a great training ground for nurses, who subsequently find their life's work in this country. Therefore, I think this matter ought not to be decided simply on the population of the country. I am quite sure that Irish nurses do not want a larger representation than their numbers and their importance entitle them to, but I did want to enter a caveat as to how the proportion should be decided. There was another point in regard to children's nurses, and I think certain hon. Members are still confused in their minds as to what is meant by children's nurses. A children's nurse under this Bill would be a lady who has had a general training in nursing and has specialised in the particular ailments affecting children. That is one of the points we shall get under this Bill. First, they will have a general training, and after that they will be allowed to specialize in any particular branch that they desire. I hope the House will pass the Second Reading of the Bill unanimously, for it is eminently a democratic Bill. It allows these ladies the opportunity which we of the medical profession have had for so long—the opportunity to work out their own salvation on the most democratic lines, and I am satisfied that what is true of the quality of mercy in exercising its beneficent influence in two directions will be also true of this measure, for it will be good not only for the nursing profession but also for the community."

NURSES A FACTOR IN MEDICAL SUCCESS.

SIR WATSON CHEYNE, BART., F.R.C.S., C.B. (Scottish Universities): "It is rather a work of supererogation to take part in this debate, because the tone of the House is clearly unanimously in favour of the Bill. I should like to join those who have suggested that the Government ought to take this Bill under its own aegis, and the natural Department of the Government to do so is the coming Ministry of Health. I hope that they will consider that point. Nursing is an absolute essential to the health activities of the country. I should like to pay my personal tribute to the value of nurses. Such small success as I have had in my profession has been very largely due to the fact that I gathered round me a little band of splendid and loyal nurses. I can assure the House that there is nothing that relieves one's anxiety more and enables one to concentrate the mind on the more important part of one's work than to know that one has at hand skilled nurses,

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