

with which one agreed so strongly? I have never believed in State Registration for Nurses, and I am afraid, although I listened very attentively, that the Hon. Member has not convinced me now of its adequacy. I am not going to move the rejection of the Bill or to do otherwise than to make a few suggestions from the opposite point of view. . . . I think what we want is an official directory of nurses, on the lines of Lord Balfour of Burleigh's Bill in the House of Lords; and in that directory there should appear the qualifications and training of the nurses and any other necessary particulars. Secondly, we want the power for any training school or hospital to copyright its nursing uniform. Those two things, I think, would be of the greatest value. If you were going to take a nurse, you would turn her name up in the official directory, which would be compulsory to that extent, and you would at once see her qualifications. Secondly, the particular hospital which has trained the nurse would allow the nurse to wear its uniform, which would be perfectly well known to everybody and would be copyrighted.

"The objection to the State Registration of Nurses is this: You are levelling every nurse to one common denomination. Your registered nurse may be from one of the best nursing schools in the country or she may be a nurse trained in one of the Local Government Board institutions—I have not a word to say against them—but the training, I suppose, is very different from that in some of the big hospitals in London. The difficulty of this Bill is that you bring them all down to one denomination and allow them one uniform. . . . The real question is whether a central body should make a person eligible or not, or whether the hospital should licence persons to wear the uniform of that particular hospital."

#### BILL GREETED WITH UNIVERSAL CHORUS OF APPLAUSE.

COLONEL WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): "I think the House should be grateful to my hon. and learned friend, the Member for Cambridge University (Mr. Rawlinson), for at last breaking the universal chorus of applause which has greeted this measure. For myself, whenever I see a Friday afternoon Bill, I always look to see who is to be put in prison, because it is my experience that these Bills, which meet with the universal support of all Hon. Members in this House, inevitably contain, wrapped up somewhere, a penal clause punishing somebody. It is quite true that this Bill, which I certainly shall not vote against, has the approval of a vast body of persons outside this House."

Colonel Wedgwood expressed apprehensions as to the effect of the Bill being to restrict the nursing profession to the daughters of the well-to-do and middle classes, and said they had got to see that the avenue into the profession was kept open to the daughters of the working classes as much as

any other class. He, however, did not offer any opposition to the Bill.

#### OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IN FAVOUR OF PRINCIPLE OF A STATUTORY REGISTER.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL

GOVERNMENT BOARD (MAJOR ASTOR): "Yesterday

afternoon, in standing Committee A upstairs,

when the Health Bill was being considered, an

Amendment was put forward dealing with the

registration of nurses. I was obliged to point

out to the proposer that it was quite impossible

in one Clause to deal with such a very difficult

question as the registration of nurses. The fact

that we have before us this afternoon a Bill of

twenty-six Clauses dealing with the same thing,

shows that we were wise in objecting to that

particular proposal yesterday. The success of

the Ministry of Health which has been set up will

depend mainly upon three things. The first is:

The success of the Ministry will depend upon

the powers that Parliament at different times

entrusts to the Department, and the way in which

the Department exercises those powers. Secondly,

success will depend upon the instruments used

by the Department in order to exercise the powers

given—the instruments as represented by the

members of the local authorities, the medical

profession, and the nursing profession. It will

depend also upon the measure of public support

given to the Minister who will be responsible to

the country. I am sure that anything which

improves the status and efficiency of the nursing

profession must tend towards the success of the

Ministry of Health. We explained yesterday

that we were unable to accept the proposals made

in the proposed new Clause, not because we were

opposed to the general principle, but because

the scope of the Bill of the Ministry of Health

did not lend itself to this particular proposal. We

did not, we said, propose to ask Parliament to

give us any new powers at this stage because we

were in favour of the general principle. I should

like to congratulate the hon. Members concerned

upon their good fortune in the ballot which has

enabled them to bring forward a Bill containing

this principle. The discussion which we have had

shows that there is an overwhelming support

among Members of the House in favour of the

principle of setting up a Statutory Register for

nurses. That is the main underlying principle

of the Bill. There is a great deal of interest and

support outside. We have to-day what is normally

the public gallery of this House practically a

ladies' gallery.

#### THE GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE.

As regards the attitude of the Government, I do not propose to speak at any length or to examine in detail the proposals set out in the Bill. All I want to say is we are generally in favour of the principle contained in the Bill. Hon. Members probably know that there is another Bill, the

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