

buried these eleven years! but evidently as desirable as ever in the opinion of its principal promoter, who was recommending it as an antidote to all the ills suffered by the nursing profession—if they must have a Bill!

Then he attacked his *bête noir* (who may be nameless) and concluded by telling his audience "You would not get your Bill through now if the College of Nursing had not bought my Matrons," referring, of course, to the fact that many of the leaders of this misguided movement, who periodically signed "the London" Anti-Registration Manifestoes, against the principle of State Registration of Nurses, are now ranged under the College banner. Apparently much as Lord Knutsford detests the policy of the free nurses, he detests the tactics of the College still more, especially as the Superintendents of the training schools no longer dance to *his* tune! We are all registrationists of sorts in these days.

It was all very Rip van Winklely!

### THE BILL IN COMMITTEE.

The Nurses' Registration Bill, promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, was considered in Committee by Standing Committee E. in the House of Commons on Tuesday, April 8th. Mr. Macmaster, K.C., was in the Chair.

The Government estimation of the importance of the Bill may be gauged by the presence of Dr. Addison, President of the Local Government Board, during the greater part of the debate on the Bill, in spite of the fact that the Housing Bill, in which he and his Department are so deeply interested, was being considered at the same time in the House of Commons.

#### AMENDMENTS.

The most important Amendments were those standing in the name of Lieut.-Colonel Raw, the spokesman of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

#### Re CONSTITUTION OF GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

He proposed: In Clause 4 to delete sub-section (g), and to substitute the following Clause from the College Bill:—"(g) Two-thirds of the Council shall be elected by the nurses on the Women Nurses' General Register under this Act; and of the persons so elected four-sixths shall represent England and Wales, one-sixth Scotland, and one-sixth Ireland. Of the persons elected by the nurses on the General Register to represent England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland respectively, five-sixths shall be nurses on the Women Nurses' General Register."

Major Barnett opposed the amendment. He pointed out that it was unworkable, and that if the Council was composed in the way suggested by Colonel Raw some persons would have to be divided into fractions. He submitted that the amendment was therefore out of order, and on being put to the vote it was lost.

Alterations were made in this clause, on the proposal of Major Barnett, reducing the representation secured to Matrons, as direct representatives, by one-half, *i.e.*, four instead of eight.

In connection with the two persons to be appointed by the Royal British Nurses Association, and two by the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Committee decided to insert the words "Registered Women Nurses" instead of "persons."

#### Re CONSTITUTION OF THE INITIAL COUNCIL.

Colonel Raw further moved an amendment to Clause 4, the intention of which was to substitute for the Council as first constituted under the Nurses' Registration Act in the Central Committee's Bill, with its careful representation of the interests of the Organised Nurses' Societies, the Provisional Nursing Council as defined in the Bill of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which would not secure one seat to trained nurses.

Mr. Lyle attacked the Nurses' Organised Societies, and their position in the former Bill, and the members of the Standing Committee feeling that they had not the knowledge to enable them to deal with the intricacies of this professional question, decided to ask the advice and assistance of the President of the Local Government Board, and to adjourn at this stage.

Colonel Raw withdrew his amendment, after which the Committee adjourned till Thursday, April 10th, at 11 a.m.

### THE ATTACK OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD., ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S BILL.

The College of Nursing, Ltd., wisely decided not to oppose the Second Reading of the Central Committee's Nurses Registration Bill on March 28th. It was impossible that it should do so, as the College is pledged to support the principle of State Registration to some 12,000 nurses. But it did what was possible to injure the chances of the Bill by issuing a Statement against it to every member of Parliament a few days before its second reading. This is what might be described as a stab in the back.

We will consider a few of the statements in this very misleading document.

#### THE COLLEGE BILL. A BLANK CHEQUE.

Clause 1.—Having lifted every Clause of any real value to the nursing profession which appears in its Bill from the Central Committee's Bill, the College of Nursing states that its Bill "is more in harmony with recent developments which have worked for the progress of women, and free from the rigidity which characterises the older Bill which would prevent adaptation to altered conditions without an amending Act."

This is rubbish. The "older Bill" has been kept thoroughly up to date, and what the College terms "rigidity" we call "lucidity."

The Bill drafted by the College is a demand for

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