

## HEALTH WEEK IN THE HOUSE.

Last week may be called Health Week in the House of Commons. According to *The Observer*, in the full House the following was the programme of work accomplished:—

Housing Bill: Second Reading.

Ministry of Health Bill: Report and Third Reading.

Scottish Board of Health Bill: Report and Third Reading.

Besides this the House found time for full-dress discussions on Pensions for Mothers. Meantime, upstairs another half-dozen important measures were being thrashed out in detail in the Grand Committees, including the Nurses' Registration Bill. "In my own Department," said Major Astor, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, on Tuesday, "we have had to-day four separate Bills in this House, and Dr. Addison and myself have had to divide ourselves between the House and two Committees upstairs dealing with Housing and with the Scottish Ministry of Health and Registration of Nurses."

It is most encouraging to find our Nurses' Registration Bill ranking as a health measure in such good company as the Ministry of Health Bill, and the Housing Bill—both dealing with legislation of first-class importance. It is good to have a Medical President of the Local Government Board, supported by intelligent officials, who realise the importance of an A1 standard of health in the community, and to know they realise Nursing as an important factor in attaining it.

"Registered" nurses look forward to strenuous work in support of the Ministry.

## THE MEDICAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

### CONFERENCE.

The Medical Parliamentary Committee has issued an invitation to medical societies interested in health questions, which have as their objective, or take an interest in medico-political activity, to a conference, to be held under the Chairmanship of Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Bart., K.C.M.G., M.P., at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., on Friday, May 2nd, 1919, at 3 p.m.

A few organisations concerned with nursing, pharmacy, and hospital administration have been invited to send representatives to the Conference, and the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses is amongst the organisations of nurses which has accepted the invitation. During the consideration of their Bill in Parliament, the nurses have, by deputation, placed their case before the Medical Parliamentary Committee, and through its courtesy have been able to present arguments in favour of the Central Committee's Bill.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The League of Nations Commission received, on April 11th, a deputation from the International Council of Women and the Conference of Women Suffragists of the Allied Countries and the United States. The deputation was introduced by the Marchioness of Aberdeen, President of the Council. She urged the following points: (1) That women should be eligible to sit on all bodies and to fill all offices set up under the League; (2) States entering the League to suppress the traffic in women and children and the licensing of houses of ill-fame; (3) That the principle of women's suffrage be recognised by the League; (4) An international bureau of education to be established; (5) An international bureau of hygiene to be established.

The deputation was cordially received and President Wilson expressed great sympathy with all the objects brought forward.

It may be added that the request of women to be made eligible for all bodies and posts under the League has been granted. A clause regarding the white slave traffic has also been incorporated. The President mentioned to the deputation that where any referendum was to be taken provision had been made to take the votes of women as well as men. And steps are being taken in connection with the Red Cross to start an international hygiene section.

A compromise on the subject of electoral reform has been arrived at in Belgium, after prolonged conference between the three parties in the Chamber. Those to have votes, besides all men over 21, are (1) unremarried widows of soldiers killed at the Front in the war previous to January 1st, 1919, or failing the widows the mothers, if these are not remarried widows; (2) widows or mothers of civilians shot by the enemy; (3) women imprisoned by the enemy for patriotic acts. The Bill was carried unanimously and with enthusiasm by a full House.

The Institution of Naval Architects, at their resumed conference at the Society of Arts, elected their first three lady associates following the decision to open their membership to ladies. They included Miss Emily M. L. Keary, a young lady of 26, who was referred to as having assisted in the drawing of one of the fastest warships. The two other ladies are Miss R. M. Parsons, who is chairman of the Women's Engineering Society, and Miss B. C. Thorneycroft. Sir William Smith, who presided, said that the necessary alterations of the rules to allow the admission of women would require the sanction of the Privy Council.

There is a commendable disposition just now to permit women to do any work for which they prove themselves capable.

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