

know now that there is such a thing as the mentality of a crowd, as different from the mentality of any one individual forming a part of it, and it is beyond refutation that the mentality of the College of Nursing tends, perhaps quite unconsciously to themselves, to make for the management of nurses forced by those in control of them, and for their patronage by those who have wealth and social influence.

It is in this fact that the danger lies, not in a clause put in or left out of a Bill, or the action done or left undone.

The danger will crop up again and again because it is an integral part of the College policy, and it the balance of power is not placed in the hands of the independent nurse, it will be used by the College for the subjugation of the profession.

The College of Nursing has shown its attitude from the beginning. Let me show you. It started its schemes without any reference to existing bodies—a very unusual course. So there you see their attitude becomes apparent. The crowning achievement of the College of Nursing in this direction is the breaking of the pledge on which it may truly be said to have gone to the country and won both supporters and membership.

It has been a great plank in the College platform. Up and down through the country, in and out of the Press, the College has claimed to be democratic because of the power it had accorded to the nursing profession on the permanent Council. Then, now, when it had gained considerable membership owing to the promises it has made, it, in the most cynical manner, throws the nurses overboard. I should think that in the whole history of similar legislation no such cruel betrayal of trust has taken place, and it would never have been attempted with a man's profession.

But what we have to think of now mostly is not the past, though it was necessary to make this clear in order to throw light on the present; but what we have to make up our minds to is to safeguard the interests of nurses for the future. The ways are clear. Let every nurse join one of the nurses' societies, which has steadfastly worked for their interests in the past, and which will be able to do so much more effectively in the future when their membership has become overwhelming. Then let every nurse, and everyone who cares for nurses or for the work they accomplish, do everything in their power to press forward the Bill of the Central Committee, which has loyally worked for professional progress, for the cause of the working nurse for years. And finally, or perhaps it should be firstly, I beg you to give warm support to the resolution now before you.

The Resolution was carried unanimously and enthusiastically.

A very memorable meeting was brought to a conclusion by votes of thanks to the chairman and speakers.

NURSES' REGISTRATION IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday, May 27, Lord Goschen moved the Second Reading of the Bill for the registration and training of nurses, promoted by the College of Nursing, Ltd. Our readers are well acquainted with this Bill, which is primarily one for the incorporation of the College of Nursing without the word "Limited," and the points advanced in its support need not here be re-iterated.

Lord Ampthill moved the rejection of the Bill in a masterly speech, of which the arguments were unanswerable, and the nurses of the three kingdoms owe him a deep debt of gratitude for consenting to present their case.

Speeches were made both in support of Lord Goschen's proposal, and Lord Ampthill's motion for its rejection, and we listened with pleasure to the maiden speech of the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava in support of Lord Ampthill. Registrationists will remember the support given to the cause for many years by the Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, and the Lady Hermione Blackwood both sisters of Lord Dufferin.

The important thing was that every one, even Lord Knutsford, supported and voted for the principle of State Registration of Nurses, and the last barriers are down of those who profess that a system of legal registration is inexpedient *in principle*.

The last speaker was Viscount Sandhurst; who made the following pronouncement:—

"My Lords, it will perhaps be convenient if I very shortly state, in the first instance, what is the view of the President of the Local Government Board; and then perhaps your Lordships, as I have had something to do with such matters, will allow me to say a word or two of my own. I share with the noble Marquess, Lord Crewe, the regret at the cause which keeps my leader, the Lord President of the Council, from his seat on this occasion.

"My Lords, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the President of the Local Government Board, I hope that you will consent to give a Second Reading to this Bill, on the ground that it embodies the principle of registration, for which the Government desires to secure legislative authority as a protection for the nursing profession itself, and also for the public. Having said this, it is my duty to add that I am not in a position to commit the Government in any way to the bodies described, nor to the actual College so described in the Bill. As your Lordships know, there has been a controversy over this question for very many years. I think it was going strong, as we say in another place, when I first entered the hospital field as long ago as 1883, and my right hon. friend proposes to see, by conferences and conversations with the people supporting the two Bills, how far it is possible to get some agreement, or at any rate

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