

14,000 fully-trained nurses, and it has during its three years of existence, had some experience of the setting up of a Provisional Council, and also of a Council which is at the present moment being elected by the nurses themselves. Therefore it has to-day some experience of the problem incidental to registration.

" Besides registration, the College of Nursing has other objects in view, such as to make provision for scholarships, for studentships and for a professional journal, the aim of all this being to promote the efficiency of the nurses and to see that that efficiency is maintained after they are registered, and to give them an opportunity of keeping up a knowledge of their work.

" An endeavour has been made in this Bill to secure two objects: one is elasticity, and the other democratic representation. The first object is secured under Clause 4 and Clause 5, subsection (2). The object of Clause 4 is that if it is desired to institute Supplementary Registers of Nurses—that is to say, registers of nurses who are nursing in a children's hospital, or in a fever hospital, or a municipal hospital—that can be done by the sanction of the Privy Council, and it will not be necessary to introduce an amending Act.

" The second object of the Bill is democratic representation, and this, I think, is secured by Clause 5, subsection (1), paragraph (a), which lays down that two-thirds of the Council shall be elected by the nurses on the General Register. My postbag during the last two days has rather suggested to me that by some occult means I am attempting under this Bill to disfranchise the nurses. I cannot possibly see how this is being done, for under this clause the nurses are free to vote for anyone—for a man or a woman, for a doctor, for a matron, for a nurse, or for anybody interested in hospital work."

After going into the technical details of the Bill, Lord Goschen concluded:—

" There is a Bill for the Registration of Nurses introduced in another place. I should like to assure your Lordships that neither I nor any of those associated with me have introduced this Bill in any spirit of aggression. The subject is much too important to the country and to the nurses, and it has been much too long delayed that any undue rivalry of parties who are interested in it and who are, after all, aiming at the same goal, although by somewhat different roads, should in any way impede or check its progress. What I hope is that your Lordships will give a Second Reading to this Bill to-day, and that an opportunity may be found for referring both Bills to a joint consideration, either to a Select Committee or by some other means, in order that from such joint consideration there may emerge an agreed Bill which will set up an efficient system of Registration that will be satisfactory to the public and to the Nurses themselves. I beg to move."

Moved, that the Bill be now read a second time.—(*Viscount Goschen*).

#### LORD AMPHILL MOVES THE REJECTION OF THE BILL.

Lord Amptill who had given notice, that on the motion for the Second Reading, he would move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months, said in so doing: " My Lords, it is a matter of great regret to me that in moving the rejection of this Bill I should find myself in opposition to the objects and wishes of many good friends of mine, and in conflict with their opinions. It is only a strong sense of duty which obliges me to take up this position. It was twelve years ago that I took up this question of State Registration of Nurses, because I had satisfied myself that such a measure was necessary as a protection to the public, as an act of justice to women generally and to Nurses in particular, and one which was required for the advancement of a noble profession. I cannot abandon those whose cause I have espoused; and, having once put my hand to the plough, I am naturally going to resist the endeavours of those who wish to turn that plough aside from the straight furrow which it has been pursuing for the past twelve years. That is why I have had to turn a deaf ear to those friends who say 'leave it alone,' and who warn me that I am running some risk of incurring displeasure among my friends—but I trust not any animosity.

" My noble friend has spared me the necessity of reminding your Lordships of the need for State Registration of Nurses. He has spoken very strongly in favour of that principle, and some of your Lordships who have not had time to consider the matter may wonder why I, who have been for so long an advocate of State Registration, should be opposing this Bill, which calls itself 'a Bill for the Registration of Nurses.' It is just because this Bill is not a Registration Bill proper that I am opposing it.

" The primary object of this Bill is not the State Registration of Nurses. If your Lordships will look at it you will see that the object which is set out in the very forefront of the Bill, and which runs through every one of its clauses, is to secure the incorporation of a private company known as The College of Nursing, Limited, and, of course, to secure for that company financial support under the *ægis* of State authority. I hold that this is not the right thing to do, and, even if it were, this is not the right way to do it. If you wish to give these privileges to this company, if you wish to give them what is in effect a monopoly in the organisation and the union of all trained Nurses so that they may control them for their own purposes, let that be clearly declared on any Bill which you accept; let it appear in the title of the Bill and in the objects and reasons which are given to the public at large.

" Many of the promoters of this Bill were a short time ago most determined opponents of State Registration of Nurses. If you doubt my word on that point, ask my noble friend, Lord Knutsford. I heard that he has been going about saying to the advocates of State Registration,

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