

to delay the Registration of Nurses at the present time, when it has been before Parliament for so many years? Nurses have deserved well of the State and have rendered services during the past five years for which every heart in this country is full of gratitude. They stand higher in public estimation as a class and a profession than ever before. They are asking you for this thing, and is it justifiable, for any reason whatever, to delay the grant of it? Surely, there is enough unrest and discontent among all classes of workers, without adding to it gratuitously by passing the measure which is before your Lordships. Nurses for a long time have been grossly and scandalously underpaid, and have been subject to a great deal of tyranny and oppression. Now is the time to remedy that. Here is a thing which you can remedy at once, and the means of remedying it is the Bill before the House of Commons.

"The Bill now before your Lordships is a Bill to aggravate those evils of which I have just spoken; simply for this reason, that you will put Nurses more into the hands of the lay manager of hospitals than they are now. The Bill before the House of Commons holds the field, and I beg your Lordships to give it a fair field and no favour. Let it come as it is to this House, and if the College of Nursing, Ltd., so desire, let them introduce amendments, so that your Lordships can test them in the regular way. Do not put the thing into other hands by handing it over to a committee. It is a matter which you should settle in the whole House and not relegate to any committee. It is a thing which your Lordships should be proud to settle in the whole House; and in legislation of this kind, it is wise and safe to adhere to established precedents, and make your laws uniform and in conformity with Acts of a kindred nature. You have those Acts in the Medical Acts and the Midwives Act. I hope I have said enough to convince your Lordships that the right and fair course is to refuse a Second Reading to this Bill."

Amendment moved—

Leave out ("now") and insert at the end of the motion ("this day six months").—*Lord Ampthill.*

We shall publish a report of the Debate on the Bill next week.

NO DEMONSTRATION PERMISSIBLE.

When Lord Ampthill—in moving the rejection of Lord Goschen's Nurses Registration Bill in the House of Lords on May 27th—characterised it as "a thoroughly bad Bill," the House was electrified by the sudden outburst of applause that occurred in the Public Gallery with dramatic spontaneity. The nurses who had committed this breach of etiquette were subsequently reminded that applause from those enjoying the privilege and courtesy of seats is out of order, and it is very necessary that the rules of the House in this respect should be observed. Many nurses, no doubt, listened to a debate in the Upper House for the first time in their lives, and their feelings, as they listened, got the better of them. The verdict is "'Not guilty,' but don't do it again."

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

NURSES' REGISTRATION IN THE LORDS.

Little Peeress, who knows something about it, to host: "Sorry to see you voted on the wrong side yesterday on the Nurses' Registration question."

Host: "My dear lady, like the majority of my peers, I am supremely ignorant on the subject. Surely Goschen, Knutsford, Denbigh, and Sandhurst, all of whom are Chairmen of large hospitals, know what they are talking about!"

Little Peeress: "No doubt they do from the hospital governors' point of view, but they have no right to speak from the workers' standpoint, and they have all opposed, or done nothing for, State Registration, or, as they call it, State 'interference,' until the nurses have converted all unprejudiced people."

Hostess: "Well, I advised Aloysius to vote for the Bill which would keep the nurses down, and the College Bill will do that. I can speak from experience: during the whole time I acted as Matron of my own hospital during the war I found them impossible people. They objected to my managing affairs in my own house; they objected to my being called matron; they objected to my wearing nurse's uniform (and God knows I made it as different as possible); they objected to my entering the theatre, doing dressings, visiting the patients as I chose, and wearing the R.R.C.; their whole attitude was insufferable. Had it not been for that absurd War Office I would have turned them all out. We must draw the line somewhere, and if these women are to be given power by Parliament to express opinions on nursing education, and make rules and regulations for the conduct of their own affairs, and question authority, and object to this, that, and the other, how are the Peers to run hospitals at all? It cannot be done at the price."

Little Peeress, indignantly: "It is the price I object to, and if Peers cannot run hospitals without injury to the health and conscience of the nurses, let them stand aside and have the State interfere. More interference the better. How about 'Guy's,' the nursery of all this College camouflage? Of course, the Matron refuses to let the nurses hear both sides of the registration controversy, when the Treasurer and the Medical Superintendent are doing everything in their power to thrust the College policy upon the nurses."

How about the 'London'? Has not every Anti-Registration Manifesto been concocted there for the past fifteen years? The fact that Lord Knutsford has rattled on Registration, as presented in the College

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