

other; therefore I hope that His Majesty's Government will adopt the course I venture to support.

#### THE EARL OF MAYO FEARS DELAY.

THE EARL OF MAYO expressed the opinion that the question of registration of nurses had been far too long delayed. Yet Lord Goschen who admitted this had introduced a Bill on the top of the Bill that had passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons and gone through the Committee stage; and the effect of the introduction of this Bill would be to delay the matter very much. The noble Viscount said his measure had the spirit of democracy in it. I must (said the Earl of Mayo) point out that what nurses want on the Council are not persons to represent them; they want personal representation themselves. That is the point which they make above all things, and I think that that matter should be considered by this House, and very seriously considered. After all, nurses are a body for whom we have the greatest respect. During this war, many have sacrificed their lives, and we owe a great deal to the nurses. . . I should like to support Lord Amthill on these grounds—that there is a Bill before the House of Commons now, and that Bill is likely to come up to us, as the noble Marquess said, after Whitsuntide. Why should the whole issue be confused by another Bill? I think it is much better that the House should consider the House of Commons Bill and not vote for that of the noble Viscount.

#### THE MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA PREFERS "THE OLD LOVE."

THE MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA said that they had already been reminded how, in 1908, they passed another Bill, and it seemed to him that if they supported the second reading of the one before the House, they would be forsaking an old love for a new one, and that the old love was far and away the most attractive. He then commented on the promise made by the College in regard to Registration, by which so many nurses had been induced to join it. Those who opposed the Bill of the College of Nursing did so on several grounds. It was a hospital governors' and matrons' Bill, and there was not amongst those who composed it a single working nurse. The Council of the College was composed of matrons, hospital governors and medical practitioners. Lord Dufferin said that the reason so many nurses distrusted the College of Nursing Bill was because the College was so obviously working for its own hand. Its Council was composed of many persons who had strenuously opposed the registration of nurses and he did not think it unfair to suggest that what was in their minds was that they should produce their own Bill, which would still keep the nurses under their domination. Registration really meant the abolition of cheap nursing labour.

Referring to the inclination of the Press to support Lord Goschen's Bill, Lord Dufferin com-

mented on the considerable sums spent in advertisements by the Nation's Fund for Nurses which was raised to endow the College of Nursing. Without throwing any doubt on the genuineness of the convictions of the Press, he thought perhaps, the sentiment "You scratch my back and I will scratch yours," might have reacted a little between the Press and the College of Nursing. Personally he felt so much indebted to nurses that he intended to do what he could to further their best interests.

#### LORD GREVILLE WISHES TO SEE BOTH BILLS.

LORD GREVILLE supported the Second Reading of the Bill on the ground that there was another Bill in another place, and that their Lordships could form their judgment later on when they had an opportunity of seeing both Bills.

#### A BILL TO CAMOUFLAGE THE REAL ISSUE.

EARL RUSSELL said he had always been in favour of the registration of Nurses on grounds which affected all, because they recognised it raises the natural *status* of Nurses, and gives security to the public. When he saw that the House was going to be invited to read a second time a Nurses' Registration Bill he was naturally pleased and gratified. But when he learned that the Bill was likely to be supported by Lord Knutsford, he developed what he thought was not altogether an unreasonable bias. The noble Lord had told the House that he had always been opposed to the registration of Nurses altogether, and when he found a reform introduced in two forms (a) and (b) and the person who had always been most bitterly opposed to that change supported one, he felt it all the more certain that the other form was the most effective, because he would support the one which it was likely would go the less way to carry out that which he did not like. That appeared to be ordinary common sense.

Their Lordships were aware probably that the other Bill had progressed a considerable way in another place; it had, in fact, passed the Standing Committee. In the Standing Committee Amendments had been proposed and moved on behalf of the Government and incorporated in the Bill, and certain compromise Amendments had been assented to. If that was so it was rather peculiar, when that Bill was almost on the threshold of their Lordship's House, they should find this body introducing in that House, with a view of confusing the issue, a Bill which proposed the Registration of Nurses in a totally different way.

I am a believer, continued Lord Russell, in the principle of self-government, and I am quite prepared to take up the noble Viscount on his statement, which certainly astonished me, that the majority of nurses are in favour of his Bill. If I was satisfied that that was so I should be prepared to support the Bill. . . . What evidence is there to be produced, or that has been produced, that the majority of nurses favour the Bill now before your Lordships' House? I see no

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