

hospitals which did exploit their nurses, not only the small hospitals, but the biggest, and sent them out private nursing, after two years' training.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTERS.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, said she would be glad if the meeting might have some more information regarding Clause 4 (page 2) of the Bill under discussion. It gave rise to great anxiety to the members of the Association to which she belonged, because it appeared to them to cut away the principal plank in the policy of Registrationists—that of the one Portal System. If under this Clause they were going to establish Supplementary Registers, and Children's Nurses, Fever Nurses, First Aid Nurses, Nurses trained in Sanatoria, Health Nurses, and other classes of Nurses were put on State Registers, where, could the speakers tell her, was there any protection in the College Bill for the fully trained worker? Under *that* Bill, if passed, they could, if they chose, establish Registers for the nurses at the Zoological Gardens and in the Dogs' Homes. Not only this, but all these classes of nurses were to have representation—we were not told how much—on the Council which was to govern the trained nurses. She wondered what the doctors would say if there were any proposal that bone-setters should have seats on their General Medical Council. Then we knew that Sir Arthur Stanley and others had arranged that the members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments were to be trained for public health work. We were not told what that training was—probably three months at the Sanitary Institute, or a term at the National Health Society. But what training had they had, or would they have, say, in connection with the early symptoms of rickets, malnutrition, or many other conditions which often commence so insidiously? Still, under this Clause, it would be possible to establish a Register under the State for such health nurses, and if the State said they were good enough for the work the Local Authorities would be justified in doing so, also. Then, we were told, the Clause was introduced to placate the Children's and other Special Hospitals. But surely it would be possible for the Council to establish some broad, well-organised system of reciprocity, in order that those hospitals might not suffer, and their valuable training material might be utilised.

Sir Cooper Perry had said that for "various causes" the State Registration movement did not meet with great success. He might be frank enough to say what the cause was—the opposition of his own and other large training schools. Over and over again, when the organised nurses asked for facilities for their Registration Bill, the answer was they had not the support of the large hospitals.

Professor Glaister had referred to the "inaction" of the Central Committee for a time before the College was founded. He knew the reason for that inaction, and should have said so. When war commenced Parliament prohibited

the introduction of controversial Bills, by private members, and for that, and for patriotic reasons, the Central Committee, as Professor Glaister knew, could not introduce or press forward a Bill.

One of the speakers had explained the insertion of the Clause which she had criticised by saying that lawyers always asked for more than they wanted. We did *not* want Supplementary Registers. The purpose behind this Clause was the same as that behind the opposition to State Registration on the part of the hospitals throughout the long history of the State Registration Movement. It was intended by establishing those varied "classes of nurses" to perpetuate the competition of the semi-trained, and so to maintain the reservoir of cheap nursing labour for the charitable Boards of the Hospitals—which would keep the nurses in a state of serfdom, for it was nothing else when you considered the hours, the salaries, and other conditions of their work.

Sir Arthur Stanley stated that under the College Bill two-thirds of the Council would be elected by the nurses, and the question of the Supplementary Registers would be safe in their hands. Miss Macdonald, however, ascertained that the nurses would not be consulted before Supplementary Registers were established.

Miss Musson, after consulting with the Chairman, said she had his permission to explain that she had always voted against the Supplementary Registers at meetings of the Council of the College. The Council, however, feared that if provision was not made for the Supplementary Registers Parliament might put in something much worse.

Miss Macdonald: Would you tell us what Parliament could put in that would be worse. (Laughter from the platform, but no answer.)

Miss Macdonald said that the nurses on the Supplementary Registers would be entitled to call Registered Nurses. (Sir Arthur, "Oh no.") Oh, yes they would, and the members of the public would not ask which Register they were on, and the Bill would give no protection to the trained nurses who had fought for registration and financed the movement for a quarter of a century before the College was thought of.

Miss Jentie Paterson said that whenever anything very vital was in the balance Parliament went to the country. Why should not the Council of the College go to the electorate for a mandate before instituting Supplementary Registers?

The Chairman said that two-thirds of the Council would be nurses elected by the nurses. The vote of that two-thirds constituted their safeguard against the chance of support for the proposal to establish Supplementary Registers.

NO POWER OF APPEAL.

Miss Breay drew attention to two points—(1) that the nurses on the College Register could, according to its Memorandum, be removed without power of appeal, and (2) to the promise made in official papers issued by the College, which stated "Every certificated Trained Nurse should apply at once for Registration by the College of Nursing.

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