

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

Members of the new Parliament are being sworn in, and the formal opening will take place, by the King in person, on February 11th. Let us hope before the Session is adjourned the long-delayed Nurses' Bill will be on the Statute Book. Don't forget, however, that *no* Bill is better than a *bad* Bill, and that penal legislation, such as is provided for in the College of Nursing Bill, would be disastrous.

### NOTTINGHAM LAMBS.

We can remember the turbulent old election days quite fifty years ago when repartee from the "hustings" more often than an impeccable programme won the day. Once as a girl we ventured into the Nottingham Market Place at election time wearing the Tory favour, to be at once surrounded by irate Liberal "Lambs"—rough mining chaps whose brawny fists could fell an ox, and who "punished" an opponent without ceremony.

"Who be yo?" they shouted at us, and one remarked:

"She be a venturesome young wench wi'out doubt."

Then they shouted, "Off wi'that ribbin—off wi it," but one more liberal than the rest said:

"Let the little 'un speak."

What the "little 'un" said, smiling around, was:

"Skip along, lambkins, I want to catch a train."

"Well, I'm glommened! Skip along lambkins. 'Ow's that for sauce?" and with roars of laughter these burly roughs—they were indeed dangerous customers when they had had "a sup"—doffed their caps and began a breakdown, their hob-nailed boots clicking on the pavement, and bawling down the Long Row, "Skip along, lambkins, skip along lambkins," as they ambled along in high good humour. It did not take the twinkling of an eye for the "little 'un" (still wearing her favour) to whisk round the corner and take to her heels.

### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SUPPORTS STATE REGISTRATION FOR TRAINED NURSES.

By the kind invitation of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Beatrice Kent gave an address upon the present situation in the nursing world, at the offices of the League, 144, High Holborn, on January 15th. "The Nurses' Cause is the Nation's Cause, trained nursing is one of the Nation's most valuable assets," she said, in her opening remarks. She traced, in a sequence of events, the history of *trained* nursing, since the founding and endowment of the first school on June 24th, 1860, by Florence Nightingale. The lecturer laid great stress upon the fact, that although many other schools thereafter were opened and great progress was made in training and general development, yet between the years

1860 and 1887 there was absolutely no organization among the nurses and no desire for it. There was no community of interests, no nursing politics, no nursing press; and every hospital was an isolated unit, not knowing anything of the doings of the others.

The year 1887, she said, was the second milestone in the path of nursing, marking a very important epoch. It was in that year that a group of pioneer nurses met in a doctor's house in Wimpole Street, to discuss and arrange for the organization of the nursing profession. The result was the founding of "The British Nurses' Association," which later became incorporated by Royal Charter under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, as the Royal British Nurses' Association—with Princess Christian as President—of which its members are justly proud. Many other important dates and the events for which they stood were told in connection with the State Registration movement, and the large measure of success which it has achieved. Special emphasis was laid upon the great importance, and the constitution, of the Central Committee and the very large number of professional men and women which it represents by delegation. The lecturer explained that it was this Committee which had drafted the Bill which had been brought up to date and will shortly be introduced into the House. She explained the essential differences in principle between this Bill and that drafted by the new Society called the College of Nursing, Ltd., and how dangerous to the freedom of the nursing profession is the latter. In conclusion, the speaker denounced the wrong done to a body of professional women by the interference and patronage of Society people. "We do not want class government, we want to govern ourselves as other professions do," she declared. A lively and interested discussion followed; the audience appeared to understand thoroughly the spirit of the situation. This was not surprising, because the Freedom League stands for freedom writ large! We record our gratitude to the League for their courtesy and their sympathy in inviting the speaker to place this important question before them from the trained nurses' standpoint. The State Registration of Nurses organized and governed by an *independent* Nursing Council, and not by one economically controlled by employers, is of vital importance in attaining the standard of nursing necessary for the community when a National Health Ministry gets to work.

### COMING EVENTS.

February 7th.—Scottish Nurses' Club, 205, Bath Street, Glasgow. Series of Post-Graduate Lectures. "The Ear," by Dr. Harper. 7.30 p.m.

February 13th.—Royal British Nurses' Association. Lecture on "Ten Thousand Years of Civilization," by Professor Flinders Petrie. Illustrated by lantern slides. 11, Chandos Street, London, W. 2.45 p.m.

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