

MR. HAILWOOD OBJECTS TO MEDICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

Mr. Hailwood (Ardwick, Manchester) supported the amendment, and said that according to the title of the Bill it was a Nurses' Registration Bill. Under Clause 4 three persons were to be appointed by the Privy Council, four were to be registered medical practitioners appointed by the Local Government Board, three to be registered medical practitioners appointed by the British Medical Association, one a registered medical practitioner appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association, one by the medical superintendents of fever hospitals, and four persons by the nurse training schools. If we were to have State Registration of nurses, it should be by nurses for nurses. That was why their amendment increased the number of nurses to be elected by nurses. In these democratic days it seemed preposterous that the outside medical associations should be brought in to control the way in which nurses should be registered. He did not know whether the medical profession would be prepared to accept nurses on their Council to say what shall constitute a medical man, and what qualifications he should possess before he should be registered. It would be ridiculous to expect nurses to control the medical profession and he strongly objected to the medical men being brought into this Bill in order to control the nurses. He was quite confident that nurses understood their profession better than doctors did, and he contended that the nurses should be given full power in order to frame their Council, their registration, and their regulations as they thought fit. (The Hon. Member is evidently ignorant of the diverse interests concerned, and as only nine seats out of forty-two are allotted to medical practitioners, it is untrue to state they are placed there to control the nurses.)

MAJOR BARNETT EXERCISING HIS UNDOUBTED RIGHTS.

Mr. G. Thorne (Wolverhampton, E.) appealed to the Government for advice. They had heard the statement made by the Minister of Health that he proposed to bring in a Bill. The promoter of the Bill exercising his undoubted rights had refused to withdraw this Bill. Consequently, the matter was going on for discussion, and a motion was before the House by way of amendment. He would like to hear what the Government had to say in regard to it.

Lieut. W. H. Sugden (Repton) supported the amendment, and said he particularly desired to associate himself with the thought of compromise, and suggested that if the mover of the Bill would further consider that addition it might be possible to arrive at some agreement.

Major Earl Winterton (Horsham and Worthing) thought it desirable to have a reply on the point raised by the Member for Wolverhampton. Negotiations had been going on with regard to this measure. This Amendment had been pressed on the Minister, but it had been impossible to

arrive at an agreement while the two present Bills were in existence. For this reason the right hon. Gentleman proposed to bring in a Bill of his own.

MR. LEONARD LYLE, OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLLEGE, ADVISES THE HOUSE TO VOTE SOLID FOR TURNING THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS OFF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Leonard Lyle (Stratford) said that he was representing the College of Nursing, and this was not an official Amendment by the College. He was very sorry to hear that there was no chance of his hon. and gallant friend the member for St. Pancras W. adopting the suggestion put forward by the President of the Local Government Board—that both the Bills referred to should be withdrawn, and the Government should inquire into the whole question and get evidence on all sides. The College of Nursing would have welcomed that course being adopted. (No doubt it would. Dr. Addison, however, did not make any such proposal, but gave a pledge to introduce a measure providing for the registration of nurses on behalf of the Government at the earliest possible time, subject to the exigencies of the Session.)

Since the member for St. Pancras decided to go forward he thought the Amendment was entirely preferable to the constitution of the Council as drafted in the Bill.

As against the four registered medical practitioners to be appointed by the Local Government Board in the Amendment we (here Mr. Lyle associated himself with the Amendment) proposed one person by the British Medical Association. He submitted that on any Council which was going to look after the interests of the nursing profession that one person, one medical man, was quite sufficient. He did not really think the nurses wanted to be, or should be, burdened with four registered medical practitioners.

Nothing better for the nurses themselves could, he said, possibly be conceived than a Council whereon thirty-seven of them were directly elected (out of a Council of 42) instead of as in the Bill, where only eighteen nurses were directly elected. (This is an inexcusable statement. Twenty-two of the members of the Council are under the Central Committee's Bill, to be directly elected nurses, and four more seats are assured to registered nurses through the Royal British Nurses' Association and the College of Nursing, Ltd. In the Bill of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the interest of which Mr. Lyle officially represents in the House of Commons, not one seat is secured to Registered Nurses. Thus the camouflage of the whole debate was apparent in all its naked subterfuge.)

Mr. Lyle taunted the Central Committee with being undemocratic and objected to the provision in its Bill that a certain number of the direct representatives of the registered nurses should be Matrons. "The whole object of the articles in the newspapers run by the Central Committee (the Central Committee runs no newspapers) was to make out that the Matron was a vixen or a tyrant,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)