

who drives nurses, and who is everything that is bad—in fact, that the Matron was a person whom you might almost frighten your children with by mentioning her name.” He supported the substitution of the word “person” for “nurse,” in relation to the representation of nurses on the Council in the College Bill, and concluded with the words: “I think the House will agree that the Amendment is one for which they ought to vote solid.”

Dr. D. Murray (Western Isles) supported the proposal for a Government Bill. In reply to the question raised, “Why should doctors control the nurses?” he said that they did not want to in this respect. They only wanted to control them in connection with their patients. In the administrative part of the profession he did not think they wanted to control the nurses. They preferred the profession should be conducted on democratic lines.

Mr. Hailwood interposed, “What I said was, that the promoters of the Bill were trying to bring in doctors’ control.”

This is an outrageous and totally inaccurate statement as the Bill provides for 9 medical representatives only out of forty-two persons, and we presume, like the other inaccurate statements, was only made by the wreckers to prejudice the House.

Dr. Murray replied that the doctors who directed the operations of the nurses should have some say as to the qualifications that were necessary for their registration. That was a reasonable demand.

Major the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore moved:—

“That the further consideration of the Bill as amended (in the Standing Committee) be adjourned.”

He wished the Hon. Member in charge of the Bill would agree.

Major Molson (Gainsborough) seconded. He advised the mover of this Bill to withdraw it and let the Government bring in an impartial measure which would benefit the nurses throughout the Kingdom.

MAJOR BARNETT'S DIGNIFIED REPLY.

Major Barnett then said:—“I have sat with patience during the last hour listening to criticisms of myself for not having accepted an offer which has been made by the Minister of Health. I listened very carefully to that offer, and it simply amounted to a pledge that the Government would look into this matter and deal with it at some future time, not this Session. [Hon. Members: “No.”] I do not want to throw the slightest doubt upon their good intentions, but we have had in this House several examples of Government intentions that have not been carried out. I remember a most famous preamble to a Bill dealing with another place and an important constitutional problem, which was regarded as an obligation of honour by the Government of the day which should be carried out, but that obligation of honour was never carried out. Although my hon. and gallant friend opposite appeals to me to

withdraw the Bill and to the Government to give some pledge that they will take up the question nothing in the way of a real pledge has been given. This being one of the two last Fridays after Whitsuntide for Private Members’ business, I felt fully entitled to go on in order to see if we can get the Report stage of the Bill. If we can get the Report stage of the Bill before five o’clock, it would do no harm to the College of Nursing, Ltd., or its Manchester advocates. In another place the College of Nursing Ltd., sits entrenched. [Hon. Members: “No.”] I know something of what I am saying. If this Bill passes line for line as I want it, it would go to another place and the interests of the College of Nursing, Ltd., would be very well looked after there. I suggest that as we have a short time allowed by the Rules of the House, and this is one of the Friday afternoons given to Private Members’ business, we should go on and try to get the Report stage. If there had been any real desire on the part of the advocates of State registration, who in this House have given lip service to the principle, they would have ceased to take the first opportunity of talking out a Bill which is the only Bill that has the slightest chance of becoming law. The other Bill brought in in another place, which has passed its second reading, would never come here at all, if it did it would be laughed out. A private Bill, promoted by a Limited Company, which is to form the basis of the State Registration of Nurses, would be laughed out here.

STILL “LIMITED.”

Commander Astbury reminded his hon. and gallant friend that the College was not a Limited Company; the word “Limited” had been dropped.

Major Barnett: “It has not been dropped yet. It is the College of Nursing, Ltd. The Bill which my hon. and gallant friend says has passed has only obtained a Second Reading in one House. I agree that it is undesirable to continue a futile discussion. I only wish to make it quite clear that if this Bill, which the great body of nurses passionately desire, is not going through this House, it is because there is an organised opposition in the interest of another body of nurses. I appeal to hon. members who have moved these amendments—which they do not call wrecking amendments, but which fulfil that purpose—not to oppose the Motion to report Progress.”

Colonel Greig, C.B. (Renfrew, W.) said he was a keen supporter of the Bill, but having listened carefully to what has been said, and especially in view of the fact that the Minister of Health had given a definite pledge that a Bill should be introduced—

An Hon. Member: “When?”

Colonel Greig said the hon. member supporting the present Bill could very easily translate that pledge into actual fact by inducing his supporters to meet and agree with the supporters of the other Bill and arrange terms, and have what would practically then be an agreed public Bill brought in on the responsibility of the Govern-

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