

the nurses registered in England, two by the nurses registered in Wales, four by the nurses registered in Scotland, and four by the nurses registered in Ireland: Provided that of the eight elected by the nurses registered in England, two at least shall be past or present matrons of nurse training schools attached to hospitals approved by the Council, one of whom shall be registered in the General Register as "also trained in fever nursing"; of the four elected by the nurses registered in Scotland, one at least shall be a past or present matron of a nurse training school attached to a hospital approved by the Council; and similarly of the four elected by the nurses registered in Ireland, one at least shall be a past or present matron of a nurse training school attached to a hospital approved by the Council;

- (h) Two registered male nurses to be elected as direct representatives by the male nurses registered in the male nurses register;
- (i) Two registered mental nurses to be elected as direct representatives by the nurses registered in the mental nurses' register;
- (j) Two registered women nurses to be appointed by the Royal British Nurses' Association;
- (k) Two registered women nurses to be appointed by the College of Nursing, Limited.

Major Barnett then moved in paragraph (c) to leave out the word "three," and to insert "four."

MAJOR NALL AGAIN MOVES THE ADJOURNMENT.

Major Nall asked if he might now move the adjournment of the further consideration of the Bill?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Major Nall: I beg to move

"That the Debate be now adjourned."

He stated the Minister of Health, speaking last week, said that there had been conferences

"with the view of discovering whether a sufficient common measure of agreement could be reached by which we could obtain a Bill which would give effect to the registration of nurses which, I think, by common consent is regarded as most necessary and desirable. I am sorry to say the results of these conferences have convinced me against my will that such agreement is not obtainable. I think it arises from the fact that while everybody agrees that the registration of nurses is desirable and necessary, it was quite clear in the conferences that those who are interested in the two Bills were not by any means agreed, nor were they likely to agree as to what was implied by registration."

"The controversy appears to have been unfortunately mixed up with personal and sectional issues which cannot be reconciled."—[OFFICIAL REPORT, Friday, 27th June, 1919, cols. 397 and 398, Vol. 117.]

He (the Minister of Health) explained that if the promoters of this Bill would allow it to drop and the promoters of the opposing Bill in another place would withdraw that Bill, the Government were prepared to bring in what they considered was a fair Bill and to deal with this great question unbiassed by any of the sectional interests which have unfortunately divided the nursing profession. Major Nall said he was authorised to say by the promoters of this Bill in another place—although when he originally spoke last week he explained that he was not pressing an Amendment on

behalf of the College of Nursing—that he had received a letter from the chairman of the College of Nursing in which he said:

"I should be glad if you would take an opportunity of stating on behalf of the College that on the Government undertaking to introduce a Registration Bill, we will at once withdraw the College Bill."

That was a definite undertaking by the promoters of the Bill in another place, and he suggested that in view of the Government promise it would be much fairer to the nursing profession to accept the right hon. Gentleman's offer and to have a proper Government Bill dealing with the question on national lines. As the promoters of the Bill now under consideration refused last week to accept the right hon. Gentleman's offer, and there was very little time left that afternoon to consider the Amendments, he begged to move,

"That further consideration of this Bill be now adjourned."

Mr. Hailwood (Ardwick, Manchester) seconded the motion, and said as long as there were differences of opinion so strongly held, and the whole House wished to do the best it could in the interests of the nurses, he thought the best thing they could do was to adjourn the Debate until the two sections of nurses were in agreement as to the right course to pursue.*

OBJECT OF MOVER OF ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW BILL TO LAPSE."

Major Barnett pointed out that the Mover of the adjournment had said that his object was that the Bill should be "allowed to lapse." The hon. and gallant Member who moved the last Amendment was careful to say at the beginning of his speech that he was not out to wreck the Bill, but it was an Amendment which went to the whole root of the Bill, which took away a very large and vital part of its provisions, which revolutionised the constitution of the General Nursing Council and substituted a perfectly new Council.

Major Nall said that if there was any chance of considering the Amendments adequately, he should be quite prepared to join his hon. and gallant Friend in doing so. He made the remark, "allowed to lapse," because he understood that that was the only thing that would happen.

MAJOR BARNETT EXPOSES THE TACTICS OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED IN MOVING WRECKING AMENDMENTS.

Major Barnett said the right way was not to move wrecking Amendments. There was every opportunity last week of obtaining the Report stage of this Bill. The Amendment by the hon. and gallant Member for West Salford, supported by arguments of the most astounding character. One statement was that 14,000 nurses constituted two-thirds of all the nurses of the country. If he would look at the census, he would find there were

* The difference is not a difference between two sections of nurses but between the employers of nurses who control the College of Nursing, Ltd., and the organizations of independent nurses.

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