

80,000 nurses in the United Kingdom, and yet he said 14,000 represented two-thirds of the nurses in the Kingdom. It was on arguments of that kind that the hon. and gallant Gentleman relied. He spoke, too, of democracy, and said this was not a democratic Bill, and yet the Bill which he advocated included a nursing council, that might not necessarily have a single nurse upon it. That Bill was read a second time in another place, on the basis that it should be compared by the other House with this Bill, and now the friends of the Nursing College came down there with an organised attempt and probably a successful attempt to prevent this Bill getting to the House of Lords at all. If they had their way, he wished it to be quite clear to the country who has wrecked this Bill, which embodied a principle so ardently desired by the nursing profession, a principle which had been adopted twice in that House, and which had a good chance of getting on to the Statute Book in this Bill, but which had been obstructed by a number of Members who paid lip-service to the principle of registration and then strained every nerve to prevent it being adopted by the House. When hon. Members put down five or six pages of Amendments to a Bill at this stage, they had no desire to see the Bill go through. As to the pledge given, he had no doubt the Government in its own good time would introduce a measure, but if it had not been for the time taken up by wrecking Amendments and Motions for Adjournment, it would have been possible to have dealt with all the real Amendments promised in the Committee stage, and passed the Bill in that House with a good chance of some agreement being arrived at in another place. Whether the Government, in face of the spirit shown by some hon. Members there, was going to be brave enough to bring forward a measure for the registration of nurses, remained to be seen. He hoped the Minister of Health would have the courage of his convictions, and would bring forward such a measure.

A RENEWED PLEDGE.

Major Astor: Oh, yes.

MAJOR BARNETT, HAVING MADE HIS PROTEST, LOOKS FORWARD TO A GOVERNMENT MEASURE.

Major Barnett concluded with the words: We have now a renewed assurance that the measure will be forthcoming. I quite agree with the hon. Member who moved the adjournment that it is impossible, even with every good will, to deal with all the Amendments now. Under those circumstances, having made my protest, and made it quite clear that the failure of this Bill, if it occurs, is none of my doing, but the result of organised and concerted obstruction, I can sit down and look forward to the near day when the ardent desire of the nurses for State registration and for the placing of their profession upon a sound, self-respecting basis, will be carried into effect.

MR. PEMBERTON BILLING DESIRES GOVERNMENT MEASURE.

Mr. Pemberton Billing (Hertford) expressed the hope that the House would be able to get down to the proposals of the Government, criticize them, and introduce such Amendments to safeguard the nursing industry throughout the country as might be found necessary.

PROBATIONERS AS SLAVES.

Sir Courtenay Warner (Lichfield) said he hoped that when the Government Bill came the vote of the nurses would not depend on registration entirely, but that women who had done a year's probation in a hospital would have a vote. At the present moment what were called probationers were practically in the position of the slaves of the nurses, and they were the class that wanted more protection than anyone else in the nursing world. Some hon. Members having had daughters nursing in hospitals during the War, would know the sort of thing that went on in hospitals, and that the voice of the untrained nurse, or the nurse who had not been completely trained, was absolutely unheard and absolutely unrepresented in either of these Bills. He hoped something would be done to give them representation in some way.

The Question was then put and agreed to.

The Debate to be resumed on Friday, 25th July.

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses are reminded that their Annual Meeting will be held at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., on Thursday, July 17th, at 4.30 p.m. They are invited to make every effort to keep that date free, and to attend this important meeting.

REGISTRATION OF VILLAGE NURSES.

At a meeting at Norwich in support of the College of Nursing, Ltd., Miss Cowlin, the organising secretary, was asked several questions to which slim replies were apparently not forthcoming.

Mrs. R. J. Colman said a good many of those present were interested in district nurses, who were not hospital trained nurses. Would there be room in the College for such?

Miss Cowlin: Do you refer to village nurses?

Mrs. Colman said she did.

Miss Cowlin said the question raised was an acute problem, as the College accepted the three years' trained nurse [It also accepts the two years' trained nurse.—Ed.] But there was a period of grace allowed. If the nurse during that period of grace could produce a certain standard of nursing she would be eligible for registration. The problem of the village nurse must be threshed out.

Miss Fowler: When does the period of grace end?

Miss Cowlin said she could give no definite answer.

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