

so interwoven with the Ministry of Health that it will become a very effective piece of machinery in the general health and development of the nation, and that it will give a status to the profession. The mere fact of this will lead the profession to become recognised as worthy of a greater financial return than that which it unfortunately gets at the present moment.

Having established a status for this profession, you will attract to it many young women who will devote all their future to it knowing that they have something to look forward to, and that they will be recognised. The very machinery itself that is set up will enable them to secure much better remuneration than they obtain at the moment. I welcome this Bill also because it will help to remedy the lack of professional attendance on mentally deficient persons, the absence of professional nurses with due knowledge of the care of the health of children, the absence of a sufficient number of fully qualified maternity nurses. All these matters will under the Bill be kept in touch with the Ministry of Health, and we shall soon find a general improvement in the health of the people, and the condition of the profession that will make us and the country thank the right hon. Gentleman for introducing a Bill, simple yet understandable in its language, free from all those unnecessary phrases that too often find their way into Acts of Parliament, and in itself a great encouragement to this very important section of health administration. I was particularly pleased with the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman as to his provision to assure to the general nursing profession a council which will be largely nominated by him, but shall not be representative of any particular class or organisation, but that the general body of working nurses shall have full and adequate representation. I hope there will be no more Amendments to the Bill than are absolutely necessary. The people of the country and the nursing profession are asking that this great measure should become an Act of Parliament at the earliest date.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ONE-PORTAL SYSTEM.

SIR WATSON CHEYNE (Scottish Universities, C.U.):—I join with others in congratulating the Minister of Health on the introduction of this Bill. I think we should have an opportunity somehow or other of discussing the regulations for registration after they have been drawn up by the Council. I am very disappointed that this Bill is to be limited to England. I think that a great pity. We want to get a register of all the nurses in the United Kingdom. A further point is that you are having three examinations. You may have different standards. It is the evil of the medical profession. Nurses should have exactly the same training and the same entrance examination in the whole kingdom.

#### BILL MEETS ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROFESSION.

MAJOR MOLSON (Gainsborough, C.U.):—As a

medical man I would like to say how heartily I approve of this Bill. I have read it very carefully, and I think it meets all the requirements of the profession.

#### AN ASSURANCE ASKED FOR SCOTLAND.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT (Lanark, C.U.):—I see the Secretary for Scotland is here. I hope he will be able to assure us that a Scottish Bill is in a forward state of preparation because we are keenly anxious for State Registration of Nurses in Scotland.

#### LABOUR WELCOMES THE BILL.

MR. R. RICHARDSON (Houghton-le-Spring, La.):—On behalf of the members on the Labour Benches I give a welcome to the Bill. I wish that wages and hours of employment and pensions had been taken into account in dealing with this matter. Nursing is a noble profession, but one of the most overworked. I know something of it. I know of the great sacrifices that many of these noble women have made for the children of the workers. Even lives have been given up for the sake of the children, and many nurses have been affected in after life by having contracted infectious diseases from their patients.

#### THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND INTERVENES.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. Munro):—I need hardly assure the House that we recognise fully in Scotland the importance of this subject. A Bill on lines similar to this is in an active state of preparation. It is already drafted, and I hope it will be possible to bring it before the House without any avoidable delay.

#### A SUPPLEMENT FOR COTTAGE NURSES DESIRED.

CAPTAIN BOWYER (Buckingham, C.L.): I want to couple with my congratulations to the right hon. Gentleman, a request on behalf of the resident nurses who tend the poor in outlying districts. The Cottage Benefit Nursing Association is, I believe, the only association which supplies these resident nurses, except in a certain number of maternity cases, and these nurses, in addition to the nursing they undertake, do with great loyalty the housework of the houses in which they are nursing, more especially if the woman of the house happens to be the patient. At the present moment under the organisation of this association they are given one year's training on enlistment, in the association's home at Edmonton, and are then sent to the branches on a three years' engagement. I am not asking the right hon. Gentleman for any representation on the Council, but I do seriously suggest that we might have a fourth supplementary part added to the Register so that separate rules could be made for this class of nurse.

#### COLONEL RAW SUPPORTS THE BILL.

LIEUT.-COLONEL RAW, C.M.G. (Wavertree, C.U.): I should like in one single word heartily to support this Bill so ably introduced by my right hon. Friend.

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