

MAJOR FARQUHARSON CRITICISES THE BILL.

MAJOR FARQUHARSON, M.D. (Leeds, N.; C.L.): The right hon. Gentleman is to be heartily congratulated on the introduction of this Bill, but in my opinion, it does not take a sufficiently comprehensive and complete view of the situation as a whole. The Ministry of Health is recognised as having a position under this Bill, but it does not go far enough.

The Ministry ought to be the registering body. The Ministry of Health has just taken over the duties of the Registrar-General, and I fail to see that there is anything more mysterious or difficult in registering a nurse, properly and truly qualified, by that branch of the Ministry, than in registering a birth, death, or marriage. I am perfectly sure that there is not a nurse in the Kingdom who would not be equally content to be registered within the Ministry of Health, as to be registered by a separate Council, which is only indirectly in relation to the Ministry.

MAJOR FARQUHARSON further said:—Take the question of a judicial appeal. Cannot the Ministry of Health deal with the question whether a poor erring creature is to be taken off the register?

A MEASURE FOR IRELAND.

SIR WILLIAM WHITLA (Belfast University, C.U.): While congratulating the right hon. Gentleman upon bringing in this Bill, I must say I am bitterly disappointed. He spoke of England, Scotland and the Colonies, but the name of Ireland has never been mentioned. He cannot surely expect that we shall loyally hasten this Bill through the House if Ireland is entirely ignored.

SIR HENRY COWAN (Aberdeen E., C.L.): We have not heard from the Minister of Health or the Secretary for Scotland any reason why this Bill cannot be made applicable to the three countries, or at any rate to England and Scotland. The inconvenience of three registers is so great that I cannot imagine any one wishing it unless there is some overmastering reason for doing so.

DR. ADDISON: I am very sorry if I omitted to mention Ireland, but I thought I had done so. While I am not in a position to give a formal assurance, I know that the Irish Office has the matter under consideration, and I think there is reason to expect that there will be a similar proposal in the case of Ireland. I would point out that when the Ministry of Health Act was introduced it was, in consequence of the teachings of which my hon. Friend (Sir H. Cowan) is an able and consistent exponent, split into different parts, including one for Scotland.

SIR H. COWAN: That was a Board, not a Ministry.

DR. ADDISON: It was a separate Department. It is very desirable to consider the Scottish point of view as there are some differences which require careful consideration, and the Secretary for Scotland is looking into the matter. I think with the arrangements we have made for interchange of registers, and no doubt there may be

set up a common register, we have really met the point. I have gone into the matter with great care, and I think, on the whole, the way proposed is the simplest.

SIR H. COWAN: When will the Scottish Bill be introduced?

MR. MUNRO: By leave of the House, may I say I cannot specify the date when the Bill will be introduced, but it will be introduced without any avoidable delay.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time, and committed to a Standing Committee.

THE SCOTTISH REGISTRATION BILL.

We learn that the Scottish Nurses' Registration Bill, which is being prepared by the Scottish Office, is practically identical in its main provisions with the English Bill. It provides, moreover, that local authorities may subsidise the training of nurses. What this means is not quite apparent; but if expenditure by Scottish local authorities is to be sanctioned, it will naturally follow that Training School authorities will demand financial support, as, after all, the Schools give the only sound fundamental practical education which is of value. An inspired paragraph in the *Glasgow Herald* expresses the following opinion:—

"There are certain disadvantages in having two separate registering authorities in Great Britain, and these must be removed in order that no hardship may be inflicted upon the members of the nursing profession. Some provision must be made, for instance, to enable nurses registered in Scotland to be automatically and without the payment of an extra fee registered in England, and *vice versa*. For this purpose the English and Scottish Registration Councils proposed to be set up must work in complete harmony. No artificial barrier to the interchange of nurses between the two countries would be tolerated by public opinion."

Whatever privileges are accorded to Scottish nurses must also be given to Irish nurses. No doubt the Irish Nursing Board will keep a vigilant eye on proposed legislation in Great Britain. A system of reciprocity satisfactory to the nurses in Great Britain and Ireland can surely be effected.

IRISH NURSES AND REGISTRATION.

We hear from Miss Carson Rae that the Irish Nursing Board and the Irish Nurses' Association are already in touch with the authorities of the Ministry of Health in Ireland, with regard to a State Registration Bill for Irish Nurses, and that the authorities are quite prepared to do everything in their power to have a Bill introduced immediately the English Bill has been published, on the same lines if satisfactory to Irish Nurses.

This is excellent news, and we feel sure their colleagues on the Central Committee will do all in their power to help push forward both an Irish and Scottish Bill if requested to do so.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)