

The Bill as at present drafted provided for 'Supplementary Registers of Male Nurses, Mental Nurses, and Children's Nurses, and there was a special Clause leaving the definition of further Registers to the Council. It was very undesirable at this stage to make distinctions, and he hoped the Committee would not accept his hon. Friend's amendments.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT asked whether a man in the R.A.M.C. would be able to get on to the Register, and Dr. Addison replied that he would if he satisfied the Council as to his training.

MAJOR FARQUHARSON (Leeds, N.) strongly dissented to the words "fully-trained" in the hon. baronet's amendment. He suggested "duly qualified" as more appropriate.

MAJOR BARNETT (St. Pancras S.W.) hoped strongly that the Minister of Health would keep to his own wording. The Council responsible for maintaining the Register would presumably be composed of intelligent persons.

MR. MADDOCK's amendment to provide for a special register of resident cottage nurses was not pressed, and the wording of the Bill relating to supplementary registers was retained.

A MEMBER opposed the definition of a number of separate Registers. The whole object of this real attempt to set up a Register would miss fire if this was agreed to. He hoped that the Register would be set up and that they would get along with the General Nursing Council under the protecting wing of the Minister of Health.

Another member of the Committee expressed the opinion that there was sure to be opposition in Scotland to a Register of Cottage Nurses. They did not want it inserted in the English Register to create a precedent to be quoted there.

A SLIPPERY SLOPE.

DR. ADDISON said that the opposition of his honourable and gallant Friend, to the supplementary parts proposed, covered the whole case, and over and over again in the course of the debate, the Minister of Health made his position quite clear. He strongly objected to tying the hands of the Council, at the outset, by the insertion of a number of Supplementary Registers in the Bill ("See," he said, "what a slippery slope I should be on.") His policy was to give the Council responsibility and to leave it to settle details. That is a statesmanlike and wise policy.

MAJOR BARNETT pointed out that the Fever Nurses' Association, the authority in the kingdom on fever nursing, did not desire a separate register of fever nurses, but that nurses on the General Register "also trained in fever nursing," should be allowed to have those words added to their qualification. Dr. Addison promised to consider the suggestion.

Another amendment by Sir Watson Cheyne, the results of which would be that no rule should take effect until it had been approved by Parliament, and one which would have deprived the General Nursing Council of the power of examination, were negatived.

Dr. Addison explained that it was provided in the Bill that new rules should be laid before

the House. What was proposed by the amendment, was that such new rules should be definitely moved in the House before coming into force, which he strongly deprecated. He assured the Committee that there were plenty of people who had an eagle eye on this business—as they would be aware if they had dealt with the contents of his post bag.

A responsible Council would be set up by the Act, and if they did not do their business properly they should be required to do so. Give people responsibility and make them discharge it.

In regard to Sir Watson Cheyne's opposition to the imposition of an annual fee, Dr. Addison emphasised the necessity for retaining this provision in order to keep a live and correct register. It must be left open to the Council to charge a small fee.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT considered that the Committee ought to make quite clear its strong wish to have complete unification. Nurses were migratory people, and they should not have to pay additional guineas if they moved about within the United Kingdom.

DR. ADDISON drew attention to the expense the Council might be put to. There would be a considerable financial burden. They might have 100,000 names put on the Register, and every one who had to do with the organisation of office work knew what that meant in clerical assistance. It would be very embarrassing to the Council, and not fair to it to have to register nurses without payment of a fee, not necessarily a guinea. He would consider the point between now and the report stage.

SCHEDULE.

An amendment moved by MR. ARTHUR SAMUEL provided that the London Committee of Children's Hospitals, and the Federation of Provincial General Hospitals for Children should be mentioned in the Schedule amongst the societies which the Minister of Health would consult.

DR. ADDISON explained that the bodies mentioned in the Bill were limited to the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, the College of Nursing, and the Royal British Nurses' Association, the only body of nurses to possess a Royal Charter. If he once began accepting others it would mean a long enumeration but he would give an assurance than in appointing the sixteen nurses he would include two who had had experience in the nursing of sick children.

MR. ROBERT RICHARDSON (Houghton-le-Spring) moved an amendment to the Clause that the first Council should hold office for a term "not exceeding three years" providing that it should hold office for "not less than two years and not exceeding three years."

DR. ADDISON accepted the amendment. He thought it improved the Bill.

TITLE OF BILL.

SIR WATSON CHEYNE moved that the words "for the sick" should be added to the title of the Bill. Agreed.

The Chairman then moved that the Bill, as amended, be reported to the House, and this was so ordered.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)