

THE PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

A GREAT HEALTH MEASURE.

Members of the Nursing Profession will realise that, after so many years of discussion, the drafting of a Nurses Registration Bill (for England and Wales) which is acceptable to all concerned has not been achieved without great consideration and thought.

The fact that Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, has brought his professional knowledge to bear on the question, and has given sympathetic consideration to the nurses' claims and rights, has been an immense factor in reconciling the diverse interests involved, and the profession also owes much to the careful drafting of the Bill by the Ministry of Health, for the phrasing of the Bill has not been accomplished without an infinity of pains being expended upon it by this Department.

Nurses who have been in the House of Commons, and in the Committee Room, while the Bill has been under discussion realise with gratitude the close personal attention given by the Minister of Health to the Bill at all points of its progress, and the skill with which he guided it through the perils which await the best thought-out measure before it is placed on the Statute Book. The debt they will owe to Dr. Addison is one of life-long gratitude, for he has given them that most priceless of gifts—their legal status, and the power to organise themselves for the good of the public., and of the members of the nursing profession.

THE BILLS IN THE COMMONS.

Immediately the Government Nurses' Registration (No. 2) Bill for England and Wales passed through Committee B on Tuesday, December 2nd, it was reported with amendments to the House, and was ordered to be printed. The Minutes

of the proceedings of the Standing Committee were also ordered to be printed, and the Bill as amended to be taken into consideration on Monday, December 8th.

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

On Thursday, December 4th, Major Henderson asked the Secretary for Scotland whether it is proposed to introduce for Scotland legislation similar to the Nurses' Registration Bill; and, if so, whether such legislation will be introduced before or after Christmas.

Mr. Munro replied, "Notice has been given to-day of the introduction of a Nurses' Registration Bill for Scotland."

Thus the three Bills, for England, Ireland, and Scotland, have been introduced within a month of one another.

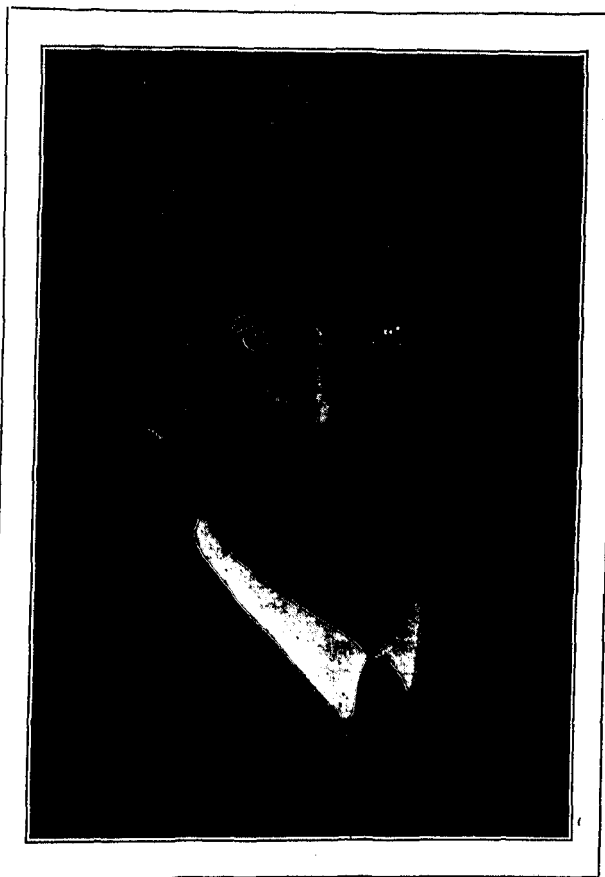
BILL READ A THIRD TIME AND SENT TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Orders of the Day for Monday, December 8th notified the consideration of Bill (No. 2) for England and Wales, directly after the debate on the Housing Bill, so during the lengthy consideration of the latter measure the Old Guard sat many hours awaiting the turn of the Registration Bills—all three of which were down for consideration.

It was a very thrilling moment when, at 11.45 p.m. the Housing Bill was given a second reading, and the Speaker rose with the Orders of the Day in his hand, and said:—

"Nurses' Registration (No. 2) Bill; the question now is that the Bill be read a third time," to which assent was given without discussion. The Bill was, therefore, sent automatically to the House of Lords.

On Tuesday evening the Irish Bill passed through Committee and was read a third time, and the Nurses' Registration (Scotland) Bill was passed through all its stages. All three Bills can now be considered by the House of Lords at the same time. This is fine!



THE RIGHT HON. CHRISTOPHER ADDISON, M.P.,
M.D., P.C., MINISTER OF HEALTH.

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