

there was a reciprocity clause in the Bill so that there would be no difficulty for a nurse in one part of the kingdom to get her qualification recognised in another part of the kingdom.

Lord Sandhurst, without taking the House through the details of the agreed Bill (well known to the readers of this Journal) then explained its principal provisions. He concluded:—

Having watched this controversy with regard to nurses—sometimes disproportionately acute—far upwards of a generation, it is a very great pleasure to me to ask your Lordships to read a second time a Bill which I think will lay this long struggle to rest; and knowing, as we all do, what nurses are—it is a noble profession, of course, and I consider it is the gentlest and most humane profession that exists—if without detriment to the public and within the four corners of my Bill, the advantages which have been so constantly claimed for nurse registration prove to be to the advantage of that profession, I shall indeed be glad. I therefore hope that your Lordships will give a Second Reading to this Bill.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2a.—(*Viscount Sandhurst.*)

LORD AMPHILL OFFERS SINCERE AND RESPECTFUL CONGRATULATIONS.

LORD AMPHILL then said:—My Lords, it would not be right if this Bill were to pass through the important stage of Second Reading without just a few words on behalf of those who have struggled so long and valiantly to bring about this reform. My object in rising, therefore, is to offer my sincere and respectful congratulations to His Majesty's Government, and particularly to the Minister of Health, for having contrived to bring about agreement in regard to this Bill. I envy my noble friend the pleasant task which has fallen to his lot of piloting an agreed Registration Bill through the House of Lords, because, like him, I remember all that has gone before of the controversy, in which I have had to take some part. I do not, however, grudge him the satisfaction he will feel when the Bill, as I hope, has been finally passed. My Lords, the nursing profession has risen steadily higher in public estimation, and nurses have become more and more indispensable to the whole community, both in peace time and war time, and it would have been deplorable if this year had been allowed to pass by without a settlement of this long-standing question. I am sure that those for whom I had the honour to act, and on whose behalf I had the honour of passing through this House a Nurses' Registration Bill practically identical in principle with this Bill, would blame me if I had not said these few words of thanks to His Majesty's Government.

"I AM A BEATEN MAN."

VISCOUNT KNUTSFORD said:—My Lords, Lord Amphill said it would not be right if those who had been in favour of this Bill did not give it their blessing. It would also not, perhaps, be right if I, as one of those who for twenty years have opposed registration, also did not admit that I have

been defeated. I am sure that Lord Sandhurst knows that nothing that could help nurses would be opposed by me, but I want this House not to go away and think that this Registration Bill can be of the smallest use to them.

Nurses who belong to the good training schools, to-day, when they join this registration will find themselves herded together with a lot of nurses who have had very inferior training, and whose only excuse for being on the register is that they have been *bona fide* nursing the public. There is no instance known to us of voluntary registration being of the smallest use, and under this Bill registration is voluntary, and not compulsory. . . . There is nothing to prevent a woman calling herself a nurse and holding herself out to be a nurse. She is only prevented from calling herself a registered nurse.

My only object is to try and induce the Government to go a step further. The remedy is so simple. If you make registration compulsory—that is to say, if you stop any woman nursing for gain unless her name is on the register—then the public would have the protection which they have a right to expect. . . . My only reason for intervening in the debate, though I am a beaten man, is to beg the Government to go a little further, and let us have a compulsory and not a voluntary register, and a compulsory register in the sense that I have indicated.

THE EARL OF KINTORE added his congratulations to those which had been showered upon Lord Sandhurst on the happy termination of an agitation which had gone on for more than a quarter of a century, and expressed the disappointment of Scottish nurses that the Bill only applied to England and Wales, and that there would not be a single British Register of Nurses to apply to all the United Kingdom. He asked for a little time for the consideration of this point before the Bill went into Committee.

The Bill was then read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

NURSES' REGISTRATION (IRELAND) BILL.

The Order of the Day for the Second Reading of the above Bill was then read.

LORD SANDHURST explained that this Bill was practically the same as the Bill just passed, with the exception that the number of the Council was ten instead of twenty-five. The reason, he said, was that the Chief Secretary for Ireland was President of the Local Government Board and the controlling authority for insurance and health. The larger number of the English Council was due to the necessity of giving representation to the Privy Council and to the Board of Education. In Ireland there was no department corresponding to the Board of Education, and there were not so many associations corresponding to the nursing associations in this country.

The Bill was then read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

NURSES' REGISTRATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The Order of the Day for the Second Reading of

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