

3 p.m. Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, Patroness of the Association, was present.

The Right Hon. The Viscount Gladstone presided. He reminded the audience that they were there to inaugurate a new period of activity after the war, which had for five years greatly hindered progress. In referring to South Africa and his own personal experience, he stated that the advantages of trained nursing were being more and more brought home to the Dutch population. The King Edward Order of Nurses had held its own, but it had not been able, during these non-progressive years, to add to its numbers. He hoped that with new energies imported into the Association, it would be widely expanded for the benefit of the Community.

In moving the adoption of the Report, Lieut.-Col. Amery, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, won very significant applause when he said "never have we better realised that all problems resolve themselves into problems of health. We have established a Ministry of Health," he continued, and no form of waste is worse, he considered, than waste of health; we have got to realise that a standard of health is a paramount duty we owe to the men who build up our Empire. Some mention of the health of the mothers of Empire builders would, we think, have given added force to his remarks. More Nurses, midwives and women generally are needed in the Dominion of Canada. The speaker said he had heard that the returning soldiers were taking over 50,000 wives! The implication being, that where there was a great increase in the population, there must, of necessity, follow a demand for more Nurses.

A very excellent suggestion was made by Sir Walter Egerton, who seconded the adoption of the Report, namely, that each Government should give a small regular contribution towards the support of the Association.

In proposing the election of the Council and Hon. Officers, the Hon. Gideon Murray, with laudable insight and sympathy, informed the audience that during the eight years that he had been Administrator in some of the West Indian Islands, he had had the opportunity of personally experiencing the excellent work done by the Nurses, but he was horrified to find how very inadequate were their salaries; he instanced the cases of two Matrons, doing very onerous and responsible work, whose salaries were £130 and £150, and upon that they had to keep themselves. He added that it would be an act of reason and justice that their salaries should be increased, as it was impossible to live upon them, and the anxiety of it was like a millstone about their necks. Then turning to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, he begged him to use his influence in the matter, which the latter promised to do.

After a very cordial vote of thanks had been proposed and carried to Her Royal Highness, for her continued interest in the Association, and for her presence on that occasion, the meeting terminated.

B. K.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

WRECKING POLICY OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

There was a great demand for seats in both the Members' and the Ladies' Galleries of the House of Commons on June 27th, when the Nurses' Registration Bill was down for the Report Stage. Unfortunately the third Reading of the Dogs' Protection Bill had been carried over from before the Recess and, therefore, the Nurses' Bill was not, as had been hoped, the first Order of the Day.

After the Government had given the Dogs' Bill its *coup de grace* the Nurses' Registration Bill, as amended in Standing Committee, was brought forward, and there was ample time to accept the adoption of the Report and to commit the Bill for a third reading, but the avowed policy of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to wreck the Bill was organised in the following manner.

Having failed in Committee to substitute the Constitution of the Nursing Council in its own Bill, for that in the Central Committee's Bill, the Council issued a very mendacious statement to Nurse members, in which the following policy to wreck the Bill was advocated:—

"What the Council wants you to do without delay is to write to any M.P. you know, or to the M.P. for the place in which you reside, and have or might have a vote, and to beg him earnestly not to support the Bill. . . The matter is very pressing."

Lieut.-Col. Raw, C.M.G., who was in charge of the College amendments, was "discharged" by the Council, and Mr. Leonard Lyle, Chairman of Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, was entrusted with the wrecking policy decided upon. Associated with Mr. Lyle were four members of Divisions of Manchester—the Committee, and officials of the Royal Infirmary of that City, including the Matron Miss Sparshott, having opposed State Registration of Trained Nurses with peculiar and determined animus for years past. These four members, Lieut.-Commander Astbury (Salford W.), Major G. B. Hurst (Moss-Side), Major J. Nall (Hulme), and Mr. A. Hailwood (Ardwick), adopted the simple wrecking policy of flooding the Orders of the Day with amendments, to which one and all could talk at length, so that it would have taken any number of hours they chose to adopt the Report. As a consequence of these contemptible tactics, there was no opportunity of going to a Division as to the adoption of the Standing Committee's Report, and, therefore, of the third reading being taken on Friday, July 4th, the only day remaining this Session on which Private Members' Bills could be considered. This the College of Nursing, Ltd., knew perfectly well, but in their most evil jealousy of the Central Committee, the Members of which have worked in season and out of season for the State Registration of Nurses, and paid for the education of the Country on this great national reform, they were determined to prevent at all costs

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