

of course, to attach the greatest possible weight to the opinions of organizations like this and others that are qualified to give advice. But I am not prepared to say that I shall accept every nomination—(laughter)—nor am I prepared to say I will not go outside those nominated if it seems to be required, because, of course, owing to the lack of consultation between the different parties, it may well be that some class of experience has not been included. But we will do our best, ladies; we will get it going quickly, and when it is set up every effort of mine will be devoted to seeing that its business is conducted in a manner which I am sure will be satisfactory to the profession it has to represent. But, finally and always, this Council and its success, and the success of all proposals that we make with regard to the Nursing Profession must depend upon an active and an instructed public opinion in that profession itself. (Applause.) Therefore, whatever you may do in the future, I hope that you will not abandon the experience which you must have gained, the allegiance which you must have gathered around you, because I believe it is essential for the benefit of the Nursing Profession, as it is of every other, that you should gradually arrive at some arrangement which will provide for you an instructed body who will be well informed of your requirements, and who can be turned to for advice and suggestion if necessary. For, speaking of the fellow profession of medicine, I do not hesitate to say that it has been a serious disability to the medical profession in times past, and even now, that, somehow or another, we have not managed to evolve a body which the whole mass of the profession or substantially the whole, will regard as their trusted representatives, competent to speak for them. Because—let us make no mistake about it—the time has come when learned professions, competent to minister to the needs of the people, will have to enter into partnership, or co-operation, with the State in ministering to those needs in an organised and properly directed manner, with the view of securing that they are properly met. (Hear, hear.) And I think that the experiences of the war, and the growing education of our people have taught us that we can achieve great things with regard to health and the prevention of disease if we take properly directed and well-organised steps for doing so. And therefore, whether they be charged with the responsibility of seeing this work done or not, it is a duty which the community will cast upon any Government to improve our health services of all kinds from now onwards. And it is on that account, and because of the various considerations that I have mentioned, that I welcome the passage of this Act, and the setting up of this Council. And I do thank you, ladies, most deeply for your hearty reception and generous thanks; and I shall ever remember this occasion, as I said at the beginning, as unique in my political history. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN: It is altogether an unique occasion, not only to the Minister, but to us too.

Dr. Addison then withdrew, the audience rising and cheering him heartily.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have listened to a most inspiring address, and I am sure we are all delighted to have had the Minister of Health with us on this great occasion. We are still considering votes of thanks. If it is unique for the Minister to receive one, it is not an unique experience for nurses to express their gratitude. I therefore call upon Councillor Kent to propose a vote of thanks to Major Barnett, M.P.

VOTE OF THANKS TO MAJOR BARNETT, M.P.

COUNCILLOR BEATRICE KENT: Madam Chair and Fellow Nurses, I beg to propose:

That the members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses desire to convey to Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., their warm appreciation of the services which he has rendered to the Nursing Profession, in generously placing at its disposal the place won by him in the ballot in February last, and for bringing in the Nurses' Registration Bill.

The members desire to place on record their opinion that it was this generous action upon the part of Major Barnett which brought Nurses' Registration into the sphere of practical politics, and has resulted in placing the Nursing Acts upon the Statute Book of these Realms.

I suppose I have been chosen to perform this very pleasant duty of proposing a vote of thanks to Major Barnett because I happen to live in his constituency, and I happen, also, to have the pleasure of his acquaintance. I would like to thank him, first, for his kindness in coming here this afternoon, because, although Parliament is not sitting, I believe Major Barnett is always a very busy man; secondly, and chiefly, I wish to thank him, in my name and yours, for his great services in helping us in the last stages of our great campaign, the last act, and the most important, in our long-drawn-out drama. We know perfectly well how hard Major Barnett worked on our behalf when he was in charge of the Private Member's Bill—(Hear, hear)—and how persistently and consistently he safeguarded our interests. And we very well know, too, it was no fault of his that that particular Bill was not on the Statute Book. But perhaps we do not all know quite so well—though we can pretty well guess—that he has worked behind the scenes very hard during the passage of the Minister's Bill through the House—the Minister has admitted it, so I can endorse it. It was my pleasure and privilege to be in the House of Lords and witness that great historic ceremonial of the Prorogation of Parliament, associated with the Royal Assent being given to those 45 Bills, three of which interested us very much. I also witnessed the preliminary ceremonial when Black Rod, the Gentleman Usher, proceeding with the Mace and a small escort from the House of Lords to the House of Commons, summoned them for the Royal procession, and their recession afterwards. And I seem to hear still the echo of those words, "Hats off, strangers!" in honour of the Representative of the King. And I think, with a little stretch of imagination, we might adapt those words to our

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