

geon to the hospital, gave as much pleasure as it did mystification, for he did wonderful things with a pack of cards, with the assistance of members of the audience. *How* remains his secret, but the talent is one he should clearly cultivate, for if ever a misguided Government decrees we are to have a State Medical Service, Mr. Paterson might quit medicine for magic as a means of making a fortune.

M. B.

## NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

On Monday, the 18th inst., the following appeared on the Question Paper:—

#### NURSES' REGISTRATION ACTS.

Mr. T. Griffiths (La., Pontypool) asked the Minister of Health whether the General Nursing Council for Scotland has so far refused to consult with the English Council before making rules with respect to conditions of admission to the register, as required by the Scottish Act, Section 3, Sub-section (3); and, if so, whether he will insist on such a consultation so that the English Council may be in a position to present its rules for his approval, and to open the register under conditions securing a uniform standard of qualification in all parts of the United Kingdom, as provided in the Nurses' Registration Acts?

Sir A. Mond: I understand that the Scottish Nursing Council have not refused to consult with the English Council, but that in view of the small number of outstanding points on the rules for the admission of existing nurses to the register, they have suggested that the Conference should be deferred until the draft rules for the admission of future nurses are ready for discussion. In any case, I have no jurisdiction over the Scottish Council, though I am entirely in agreement with the Hon. Member as to the importance of securing a uniform standard of registration in all parts of the United Kingdom.

We are greatly encouraged by this reply of the new Minister of Health, in so far as he is in agreement with the English Nursing Council as to the importance of securing "a uniform standard of registration in all parts of the United Kingdom," but in regard to the "outstanding points on the rules" still not agreed upon between the English and Scottish Councils, in our opinion they include fundamental principles which, if not justly defined, may render the whole value of the English Register abortive.

For instance, the provision in the Scottish rules that all fever-trained nurses holding the certificate of the Scottish Board of Health, shall be placed upon the General part of the Scottish Register—although a Supplementary Register of Fever Nurses is to be compiled—is a most unjustifiable demand. But when it is also claimed that these fever nurses are

to be automatically thrust upon the General Nurses' part of the Registers for England and Ireland—when the Rules exclude English and Irish Nurses with only practical training in the nursing of infectious diseases—it will be readily agreed that this "outstanding point" is one which touches "the uniform standard of registration in all parts of the United Kingdom," and that the English Council cannot concede the right of the Scottish Board of Health, to degrade the standards of the English Register or agree to Rules sacrificing the professional interests of English and Welsh nurses.

No one who understands questions of professional training and standards of nursing will fail to grasp the significance of such a policy.

Frankly the interests of the general trained nurses in Scotland are being sacrificed to the economic exigencies of the Scottish Board of Health.

We ask—Is it presumable that the 5,000 English Fever Nurses, many of them highly-trained and certificated in their own speciality, are going to permit their Scottish colleagues to be placed on the General Register whilst they themselves are not eligible to rank as general nurses? Certainly they will not submit to such gross injustice.

It is the duty of the English Council to make this "point" quite clear to Sir Alfred Mond.

On Tuesday, the 19th inst., the following appeared on the Question Paper:—

#### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

Mr. Grundy (La. Rother Valley) asked the Minister of Health whether the important work of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales is in charge of a junior official of the Ministry of Health, who knows nothing of medicine or nursing, and who cannot appreciate professional points which have to be adjusted between the three statutory nursing authorities in the United Kingdom; and whether he will take whatever steps are necessary to avoid rules being forced on the English Council which may result in the boycott of the register when opened?

The Minister of Health (Sir A. Mond): The Hon. Member is misinformed. Questions relating to Nurses' Registration are dealt with in the ordinary course of Departmental business by administrative and medical officers of appropriate standing and subject to the Minister's instruction. The General Nursing Council have only been required to make such alterations in the rules submitted by them as were necessary to bring them into conformity with the Act or to give effect to the intention of Parliament.

The Annual Meeting and Annual Dinner of the Guy's Hospital Nurses' League will be held in the Nurses' Home, Guy's Hospital, on Friday, April 29th, at 7 p.m. Tickets for the Dinner may be obtained, price 1s. each, from the Hon. Secretary. Competitive Exhibitions of Photographs and Needlework will be held as usual on the day of the Annual Meeting.

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