

whether in regard to historical facts or in the assumption of credit for work unperformed, for which credit should be given elsewhere. The history of the struggle for State Registration is open for all to read, and Mr. Berkeley will not increase the reputation of the College either by making statements which can be refuted by reference to Hansard, or by assuming the credit for securing the passing of the Act.

"A MONSTROUS PERVERSION OF THE TRUE FACTS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH A MEAN OBJECT."

Examining the objects for which the College was founded, he says it aimed at (b) The passing of an Act for the State Registration of Nurses. He then told the Sheffield Centre: "Those who have followed nursing politics will remember how this question of State Registration has cropped up year after year. Bill after Bill has been drafted, only to be thrown out in the Second Reading. The House of Lords has passed such a Bill more than once. Sometimes the Royal British Nurses Association had its Bill introduced, at others the Society for the State Registration of Nurses. A joint body, known as the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, was formed to smooth over the differences of its parents and draft a common Bill, which it did more than once, but all to no purpose. Then the College was founded, and largely through its efforts a pledge was given by the Minister of Health, on behalf of the Government, to introduce a Bill into the House of Commons, with the result that the Acts for the State Registration of Nurses received the Royal Assent less than four years after the foundation of the College."

THE TRUE FACTS.

The history of the State Registration Bills in Parliament is as follows:—

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

1904. A Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, drafted by the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, was introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Farquharson, Member for West Aberdeenshire. The following year Mr. Munro Ferguson (now Lord Novar) took charge of the Bill for the Society, and it was introduced annually until 1910, but never gained a place in the ballot. From the beginning it was systematically blocked by members acting for the Committees of the Nurse Training Schools.

1904. A Bill providing for the Registration of Nurses and *Nursing Homes* was introduced into the House of Commons on behalf of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

1909. A Bill to establish and make regulations to provide for a Register of Nurses in Scotland, was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. T. W. Cleland, M.P.

None of these Bills obtained a place in the ballot.

1910. On the initiative of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses

was formed under the Chairmanship of Lord Ampthill, and the "Bill to Regulate the Qualifications of Trained Nurses, and to provide for their Registration," supported by all the Societies represented on that Committee, English, Scotch and Irish, was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Munro Ferguson on its behalf, and each year until 1914 when, on his appointment as Governor-General of Australia, Dr. W. A. Chapple, M.P., Member for Stirlingshire, took charge of the Nurses Registration Bill. When Dr. Chapple introduced the Bill under the ten minutes' Rule the late Mr. Handel Booth took the almost unprecedented step of challenging it on its first reading, the result of the Division being: For leave to bring in the Bill, 311; against, 83; majority for the Bill, 228. Thus the principle of registration of nurses was approved by an overwhelming majority of the House of Commons, and at once became "practical politics."

In spite of the unanimous agreement of the Registration Societies of England, Scotland and Ireland, the College Company butted in with a Bill providing that its Council should be the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, and induced thousands of Nurses to join it on the pledges repudiated by Mr. Berkeley. This pledge was given although the College Council was well aware that there was an influentially supported Bill introduced into the House of Commons year after year, into which House the College Bill has never been introduced.

In 1919 Major Barnett, M.P., Member for St. Pancras, S.W., gained practically the first place in the ballot, and introduced the Nurses' Registration Bill on behalf of the Central Committee. On March 28th, Major Barnett moved the Second Reading of the Bill when it received overwhelming support, including that of the official spokesman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., who told the House of Commons that "the Bill promoted by the College of Nursing was very carefully considered, and in consultation with the authorities on that Bill they decided that they could not, and would not, oppose the State Registration of Nurses or *offer any opposition whatever* to this Bill."

During the Committee Stage of the Bill the College of Nursing still had hopes of its Council being adopted as the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, but agreed to a compromise arrived at after consultation between the various interests concerned in which it was granted four representatives on the independent Council. When Mr. Leonard Lyle took exception to the constitution of the Council, Lieut.-Colonel Raw said that "naturally as in charge of the College amendments he would like to get the best representation possible. The arrangement was a compromise so that they might get an agreed Bill. He had endeavoured with this object to act in a spirit of sweet reasonableness, and must take full responsibility for the course he had adopted in the compromise agreed upon."

That was on April 10th. Within a month the College issued a manifesto headed "The Nurses'

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