

Registration Bill," signed by its Secretary, Miss M. S. Rundle, which opened by stating "The Council of the College feels compelled to appeal to every nurse to do her part in bringing to the notice of Members of Parliament the serious crisis which has arisen by the passing through Standing Committee in the House of Commons of the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses promoted by the Central Committee." After a series of mis-statements this official ukase of the Council concludes:—

"What the Council, therefore, wants you to do WITHOUT DELAY is to write to any M.P. you know, or the M.P. for the place in which you reside and have or might have a vote, and beg him earnestly NOT TO SUPPORT THE BILL. The matter is very pressing as the Bill comes again before the House of Commons not later than May 7th."

The result of these mean tactics was apparent in the House of Commons on June 27th, when the Report Stage of the Nurses' Registration Bill was reached. There was ample time to accept the adoption of the Report and to commit the Bill for a third reading, had not Mr. Leonard Lyle, and the four Members for Manchester, entrusted with the wrecking policy of the Council adopted the deliberate policy of flooding the Order Paper with wrecking amendments. So callous was the Council of the College that it was prepared to put off the State Registration of Nurses indefinitely sooner than see the Central Committee's Bill go through. The situation was only saved by the Minister of Health (Dr. Addison) coming forward, and undertaking at the earliest possible time, on behalf of the Government, to introduce a measure providing for the Registration of Nurses.

As every one knows, Dr. Addison fully redeemed this promise, and Acts for the State Registration of Nurses in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, received the Royal Assent on December 23rd, 1919, a ceremony at which the Council of the College of Nursing were conspicuous by their absence. No Nurses' Registration Bill has been thrown out in the House of Commons on its Second Reading, as stated by Mr. Berkeley.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords the Bill introduced by Lord Ampthill on behalf of the Society for the State Registration of Nurses in 1908 passed triumphantly through all its stages, and is the only such Bill which has been passed by that House.

On May 27th, 1919, the College Bill received a Second Reading. That was the only occasion when it saw the light of day for it never reached the Committee stage—a very small achievement on which to found the bragging claim of Mr. Comyns Berkeley, on behalf of the College of Nursing, that every one failed till it came along and took a hand, when, hey presto! the Act was passed forthwith.

The profession of nursing having escaped control by persons whose conduct in connection with State Registration has been autocratic and callous in the extreme is advised to preserve its professional liberty at all costs.

ENFRANCHISED AUSTRALIAN NURSES MUST DEMAND STATE REGISTRATION.

We hear with regret that once again the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses in Victoria is being opposed and may fail to become law. Before the Registration Acts of 1919 came into force at home the injury to Victorian Nurses was not so apparent, but now, under these Acts, unless they can prove equivalent Registration in their own States, Australian Nurses are debarred from Registration in Great Britain and Ireland. In Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia, Registration Acts are in force on sound standards; each requires three years' training for a general nurse, and Nurses registered in these States can be admitted on reciprocal terms to the English, Scottish and Irish Registers, but at present nurses trained in New South Wales, Victoria and the Northern Territory cannot be admitted. For years we have been urging the well-organised and enfranchised nurses of these States to unite and insist upon State Registration, but as at home the hospitals have opposed, and now that Bills are again before the Legislatures of these States there is political opposition. The Nurses should take the question in hand without reserve, and bombard their Governments and insist upon justice. They have got the vote, why don't they use it effectively?

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAM- ENTARY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the above Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Monday, January 30th, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the chair. Mrs. Fenwick said there never had been a time when the nursing profession was so urgently in need of a strong political society to look after its interests. The present annual subscription of a guinea was, she thought, prohibitive of a popular, numerically strong Council, and she suggested that they revert to the financial basis on which the Society for State Registration of Nurses did such admirable and successful political work. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that members of the Council should pay 1s. annual subscription, or 5s. to cover five years' membership. As work and office had always in the past been gifts and would continue to be so in the immediate future, the small subscription with donations from those who could afford them, would prove in the future as they had done in the past sufficient to cover the amount of propaganda to be done by enthusiasts.

It was agreed that all members must be on the Register of the General Nursing Council, including the Supplementary Registers, so that the interests of all Registered Nurses might be represented. Thus Male, Mental, Sick Children's, and Fever nurses will be eligible for membership. It was agreed that a leaflet should be drafted showing "Registered Nurses" the reasons and necessity

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