

existing nurses there should be no training. The Nursing Council has stipulated that there must be a year's training in hospital, and that excludes a large number of nurses. The Act requires that the General Council should make provision enabling persons who have not been trained to provide evidence of at least three years' practice of their profession before the 1st November, 1919, and to satisfy the Council as to their knowledge and experience. A large number of nurses are practising their profession who have not been trained in a general hospital, but they are satisfactory to the members of the medical profession, or to some of them, and to a large *clientèle* of patients. Many of these have been brought before my notice and before the notice of the Medical Committee. [Dr. Chapple then gave some concrete instances.] There are nurses in this country who are going to be wronged, and hon. Members ought not to treat this subject with levity as they are doing now. The women of this country are entitled to better treatment.

MAJOR BARNETT: To which hon. Member is the hon. Member referring? He is shaking his fist in this direction.

MR. POTTS: If it were your daughter who was concerned in what he is talking about you would not treat the subject with such levity.

DR. CHAPPLE: The hon. Member certainly would realise that it is a subject which should commend itself to the attention of the House. The Council of the College of Nursing has expressed itself as in entire sympathy with the complaints of the nurses who are being denied the privilege of coming under the Act, and they respectfully urge that the door of admission to the first register should not be closed to any existing nurses who can show that they have *bona fide* acted as nurses of the sick for three years. In passing, I may point out that after the 14th of next July no nurses can be put on the first State register unless they have gone through a curriculum course of training in a general hospital.

MR. R. RICHARDSON: Why put on those who have not gone through such a course?

DR. CHAPPLE: The nurses for whom I am pleading have qualified under the old *régime*, yet it is proposed to deprive them of the right to continue their work. As I have said, the Council of the College of Nursing has entire sympathy with their complaints, and

"begs respectfully to urge that the door of admission to the first State register should not be closed to nurses who can show that they have *bona fide* acted as nurses of the sick for three years before November, 1919, and that they possess adequate knowledge and experience of nursing the sick, however such knowledge and experience may have been acquired."

The Act claims that the knowledge and experience shall be acquired by training in a hospital, but my proposed Amendment lays it down that it does not matter how it is acquired. I only ask that we should be fair to these women. One objection that has been made is that it would open the door to the V.A.D., but it would do

nothing of the kind. Any V.A.D. would have to provide certificates in medical as well as surgical nursing, and must have been in practice for three years before the 1st December, 1919, or she would have no chance of getting on to the register. I desire to emphasise the importance of that. It is for the existing nurses, and once through it will soon pass away. I admit that these nurses are not so highly qualified as will be the case in the future, but provision has to be made, as has always been done in the past, for the *bona fide* workers who are in practice when the legislation is passed.

DR. SALTER: I beg to second the Motion. The object of this Address is to remedy certain anomalies and injustices which have arisen owing to the sanctioning by the Minister of this Rule 9. As my hon. Friend has explained, in order that a nurse may get on the existing register she has to comply with certain specified conditions, and those who support this Address agree that the most stringent conditions possible should be imposed so far as the future is concerned. We do not desire in the least to lower the standard of nursing education: we desire to raise it. We do not mind how narrow the portal of entry is made so far as the future is concerned, but we do plead for justice and fairness for women who are extremely highly qualified in many respects, but who do not fulfil all the technical requirements of this Rule. One illustration that I will give will bring home to the House something of the character of the injustice and anomaly that is now being perpetrated. If any hon. Member were taken suddenly ill with, say, appendicitis, and were removed to almost any one of the well known nursing homes in London, he would be attended almost certainly—at least, the chances of it would be 10 to 1—by a person who is not on the register and is not eligible under this Rule to go on the register. There you have a most extraordinary position. Again, if any hon. Member were to meet with an accident while motoring in the country, and were to be taken with a broken leg to the nearest cottage hospital, in all probability the matron of that hospital would be a person who is not on the register and is not eligible to be on it.

I suggest that, in these circumstances, it is monstrous to make a Rule of this sort. The fact stands out that in practically all the leading nursing homes in this city, and for that matter in most provincial cities, almost all the members of the nursing staffs there employed are women who do not and cannot fulfil the requirements of this Rule. May I give one illustration only, of the case of a nursing home, known to practically everyone in this House who has any connection with such affairs? It is a nursing home of the highest possible standing, to which leading medical men, surgeons and physicians, send their patients. The senior nurse in that institution is a person who had two years' training at the Poplar Women's Hospital, to commence with, some years ago, but, because that hospital is a special and not a general hospital, she does not

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