

*bona fide* in practice before 1900, and we believe that that can be extended to nurses who were *bona fide* in practice up to 1910, which is the substance of the Amendment standing in my name. Some 13 years have elapsed since 1910, and they have had a much wider experience.

I should like to throw this extra light upon the question as shown before the Medical Committee by the deputation from the General Nursing Council. They clearly represented the point of view that they put the line at 1900 because before then they thought it was not sufficiently recognised that if a nurse was going in for a general nursing practice she must have a general nursing training. We asked: "Do you consider that after 1900 they had this general recognition?" and they said, "Yes," but in cross-examination I persuaded myself that they had not proved that it was the case in regard to nurses in the provinces, and especially in the smaller towns. I maintain that the training facilities were not sufficient in the early years of the present century, and that it was not generally recognised that nurses would one day have to show that they had had a general nursing training. I think, therefore, 1910 is a fair line to take up. If Parliament has decided on a democratic constitution for the nursing profession, and that constitution is represented by the present General Nursing Council, who have clearly declared that it is impossible for them to recognise as satisfactory such *bona fide* nurses as would come in after the year 1910, we cannot possibly pass this proposal that is before the House now.

MR. AMMON: Did the Minister of Health give us to understand that the Government Whips would not be put on?

MR. N. CHAMBERLAIN: The Government Whips will not be put on.

LORD HUGH CECIL: I have listened to this Debate with a perfectly open mind, because I have no previous acquaintance with the subject, but I have found it impossible, as the discussion has gone forward, to support the position taken up by the Minister of Health. The case, as it has been stated, amounts to this, that there are a number of nurses who are qualified to nurse the sick from the point of view of the sick, and who are not incompetent for that duty. They are to be refused registration because of the professional feeling of the Nursing Council, and we all know what professional feeling is.

LIEUT.-COLONEL FREMANTLE: Not professional

feeling, but professional judgment, as laid down by the Act.

LORD HUGH CECIL: That is the same thing, and we all know what that sort of sentiment is. It is always rather narrow, and I confess I think it is only natural that it should be respected in regard to future nurses, but in respect of those whose livelihood now depends on being registered nurses, I think it is inflicting on them a most unreasonable hardship. It may be from the point of view of the sick she is sufficiently qualified, and should not be excluded merely because other nurses have a professional feeling on the subject, such as we know easily arises. We should not be guilty of injustice to persons entitled to look to us for justice, and, therefore, I shall myself vote in favour of the Motion.

LIEUT.-COLONEL NALL: Like others, I feel responsible to this House. I also think that what the Noble Lord has just said has considerable force. No doubt injustice will follow if the Amendment be not made. But I am very much impressed by the argument of the Minister of Health against that part of the proposal regarding the certificates granted by medical men, and other registered nurses. That, I think, is thoroughly unsound, and therefore, for that reason alone, I oppose the first Motion on the Paper. It does seem to me that the House ought not to take action on this matter to-night in the present state of uncertainty, and I want to appeal to the Minister as to whether we should not have further inquiry made into this matter with a view to accepting an Amendment on the lines of that proposed by the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for St. Albans (Lieut.-Colonel Fremantle), where the alteration is in the date. If my hon. Friend's Motion is made effective at a much later date, and, say, 1914 inserted, that would take away a good deal of what the hon. Member opposite complains about; therefore, if postponement till to-morrow would enable the Minister to do this, or if he would make further inquiries, either through a Departmental Committee or a Select Committee of this House, it would be well, for I believe this question is worth further consideration. Whatever decision is taken to-night, if one is taken, considerable feeling will be aroused, and the matter will not be allowed to remain in whatever position we may put it.

Question put.

The Address as moved by Dr. Chapple and printed on page 393 was then read by the Speaker. The House divided: Ayes, 111; Noes, 81.

#### AYES.

Adams, D.  
Adamson, Rt. Hon. William  
Adamson, W. M. (Staff., Cannock)  
Ammon, Charles George  
Berkeley, Captain Reginald  
Bonwick, A.  
Bowerman, Rt. Hon. Charles W.  
Broad, F. A.  
Bromfield, William  
Brown, James (Ayr and Bute)  
Buchanan, G.  
Buckle, J.  
Burnie, Major J. (Bootle)  
Buxton, Charles (Accrington)

Buxton, Noel (Norfolk, North)  
Cecil, Rt. Hon. Lord H. (Oxford Univ.)  
Charleton, H. C.  
Clayton, G. C.  
Collins, Pat (Walsall)  
Cotts, Sir William Dingwall Mitchell  
Gowan, D. M. (Scottish Universities)  
Davies, Rhys John (Westthroughton)  
Dudgeon, Major G. R.  
Dunnico, H.  
Ede, James Chuter  
Edwards, C. (Monmouth, Bedwellty)  
Entwistle, Major C. F.  
Fairbairn, R. R.

Furness, G. J.  
Gosling, Harry  
Graham, D. M. (Lanark, Hamilton)  
Gray, Frank (Oxford)  
Greenall, T.  
Grenfell, D. R. (Glamorgan)  
Grundy, T. W.  
Hall, F. (York. W. R., Normanton)  
Hall, G. H. (Merthyr Tydvil)  
Hamilton, Sir R. (Orkney and Shetland)  
Harbord, Arthur  
Hardie, George D.  
Hay, Captain J. P. (Gathcart)  
Hayday, Arthur

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