

organisations, proposing that a conference should be held to consider the advisability of affiliation for the purpose of agreeing upon one Bill. The formation of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses was the result of conference, under the Chairmanship of Lord Ampthill, composed of delegates from the British Medical Association, Royal British Nurses' Association, the Matrons' Council, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Fever Nurses' Association, the Irish Nurses' Association, the Scottish Nurses' Association, and the Association for the Promotion of the Registration of Nurses in Scotland, and later the National Union of Trained Nurses.

In 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913, the Central Committee's Bill was introduced into the House of Commons, but was persistently blocked by Members put up by the Central Hospital Council, and the Nurse Training Schools, led by the London and St. Thomas', the Matrons of these institutions and others obediently signing every "Anti-Registration Manifesto" issued by their employers, the basic principle of such manifestoes being the pronouncement, "That a legal system of Registration of Nurses is inexpedient in principle and injurious to the best interests of nurses, and of doubtful public benefit."

In 1914, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, P.C., was appointed Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in Federated Australia, and Dr. W. A. Chapple, M.P. for Stirlingshire, was entrusted with the Central Committee's Bill.

Dr. Chapple did great service to the cause by obtaining leave from the House to bring in the Bill under the Ten-Minutes Rule. This gave him an opportunity of speaking to it, and he made very good use of his ten minutes' time. A division was challenged by Mr. Handel Booth to bring in the Bill—a most unusual course—and, as it proved, a great tactical mistake for the "Antis," as, for the first time in the ten years during which they had blocked its course in the Commons, the opinion of the House was tested on the *principle* of registration, and its expediency was triumphantly vindicated by a majority vote of 228. Those voting for leave to bring in the Bill included four Cabinet Ministers and 23 Members of Parliament holding official posts of responsibility in Government Departments; 161 Liberals, 59 Unionists, 66 Nationalists, and 25 Labour Members. This vote constituted State Registration a practical proposition, and compelled the "Antis" to drop their obstructive, and adopt a constructive policy.

I was the only nurse in the House during this historic event, and was only saved from whirling down the marble steps in my excitement by being caught round the waist by Dr. Chapple, and thereby no doubt saved a serious accident. One cannot stop on air with impunity!

During the following months little progress was made with the Bill in the House, though, as for ten years past, we worked in season and out of season in support of its principles, and then came the terrible month of July, 1914, when the world

stared the red terror of war in the face, and with trumpet and drum men stepped forth to battle to save the liberties of mankind, and women followed the flag to minimise the horror and suffering. They were great years, in which we lived at high altitudes. By order of the Government private members ceased to promote legislation. The Bill for State Registration of Nurses was not introduced again until after the Armistice in 1918. In 1919, Major Barnett, M.P., drew a lucky place in the Ballot, and most generously gave it to the nurses and introduced their Bill on March 11th, 1919, which would have passed through all its stages during the Session had not the College of Nursing, Ltd., with unparalleled meanness had it blocked on the Report stage by Mr (now, of course, Sir) Leonard Lyle, and the Members for Manchester.

We now come to the history of the formation of the hospital employers' Union, the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its Caucus Council, and I shall, next week, begin to expose its tactics in its determined policy to subjugate and govern the Profession of Nursing.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

"N. M. L." meetings have often been described as "family gatherings," and the title would have been especially applicable to the Valedictory Meetings on October 12th. Nurses and their friends rallied in numbers, the evening meeting being almost crowded out, and the interior of University Hall, decorated with masses of autumn-tinted flowers, formed a glad contrast to the dismal streets, where rain fell persistently. As usual members were present from many a distant land, and from many different hospitals and various branches of nursing work. The nurse speakers came from far afield—Miss Hammond from the Congo; Miss Manwaring from Quetta, North India; Miss Haward, Miss Hope Bell and Miss Sharpe from China. They could all tell of diseases and conditions very different from those in the homeland. Miss Hammond told of the 200 patients treated annually for sleep-sickness; Miss Haward of the successful new treatment for leprosy; Miss Manwaring of the terrible wounds due to feuds and quarrels, the horrible results of ignorant treatment, and the thousands of eye cases treated during the seven weeks spent annually at Shikarpur. They told, too, of strange beliefs and customs; Miss Hammond spoke of the strong belief in fetiches in Africa; Miss Hope Bell vividly described the belief in dragons of the air, the earth, the sea, the intense fear of demons leading to all sorts of queer devices; both she and Miss Haward spoke of the fear of mental cases and the cruelty shown towards them, and Miss Haward described the terrible sufferings of the little slave girls; and Miss Manwaring made vivid the bewildering variety of types, nationalities and languages met

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