

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, June 19th.

NURSING HOMES (REGISTRATION) BILL.

On June 19th Mr. Hurst moved: "That the Bill be now read a Second time." He said:—

I quite realise that at this time it is impossible to get this Bill through. I also recognise that at this time of the Session it is impossible to have any hope that the Bill may become law, but I should like to emphasise these facts. This Bill is supported by the great majority, if not by all, of the nurses of this country. It has also a very influential backing from the general public and the medical profession. It is a non-party Measure supported by members in all parts of the House. The object of the Bill, however much you may criticise its details, is, I think, beyond all criticism, and all challenge, inasmuch as it aims at preventing bogus institutions from defrauding the public. It also aims at removing abuses by which persons having no claim to be nurses may drag a noble and an honourable calling in the dirt by purporting to carry on nursing homes. It is open, undoubtedly, to many criticisms in detail, but the principle is supported by most thinking people. I do ask the representative of the Government if he cannot see his way to support the Second Reading, or at all events to give a short statement as to the Government's intentions with regard to the Bill.

Captain Elliot (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health, Scotland): It would not be possible for this Bill to have a Second Reading now, but if the promoters would see their way to withdraw the Bill, I think I could promise, on behalf of the Government to have a Select Committee appointed to inquire into the subject, and then we could have the evidence worked out on either side, and subsequently be able to come to a decision that would be quite impossible for us to do in the time remaining in the Session.

Mr. Hurst: Having regard to what the hon. and gallant Gentleman says, I beg leave to withdraw the Bill, and to accept the offer.

The Bill was then withdrawn.

NURSING COUNCIL.

Wednesday, June 24th.

On June 24th a Select Committee was appointed to consider the rules of the General Nursing Council with regard to the prescribed training for nurses and the reservation of seats on the Council for matrons.

The following were nominated members of the Committee:—

Major Sir Richard Barnett, Sir George Berry, Mr. Rhys Davies, Mr. Fisher, Lieut.-Colonel Fremantle, Sir Charles Forestier-Walker, Mr. Gerald Hurst, Major-General Sir Richard Luce, Colonel Sinclair, Miss Wilkinson, and Mr. Robert Wilson.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records:

Ordered, That three be the quorum.

PRELIMINARY MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

A Preliminary meeting of the Select Committee was held on Wednesday, July 1st, at which the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., was elected Chairman, and the dates of the first four sittings were agreed.

Amongst those who will be called upon to give evidence are Mr. Brock, C.B., Sir Wilmot Herringham, Chairman General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and

presumably other members of the Council, who are in sympathy with a prescribed scheme of training for probationers, as provided for in the Act, and with the principle of equality for voting purposes of the nurses in the general part of the Register, a privilege enjoyed by the nurses on the supplementary parts of the Register. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, witnesses from the Royal British Nurses' Association, from the College of Nursing, Ltd., from the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council and from the Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

The next meeting will be held on July 22nd, and meetings on July 23rd, 24th and 28th.

As the sittings of the Select Committee clash with the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors, it is to be hoped that the evidence of Miss H. L. Pearce, Councillor Beatrice Kent and others may be taken upon their return from Finland. The meetings of the Select Committee, which are held at the House of Commons, are open to the public, so that those interested, may attend and listen to the evidence. The two subjects of reference—the right to prescribed training under the Act, and the right to a free vote by Registered Nurses for those forming their Governing Body, which has penal powers over members of the Nursing Profession—are matters of vital importance to the status of, and liberty of conscience of, the whole Nursing Profession.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE NEW NURSES' HOME AT THE LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

Owing to a slight indisposition Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., was unable to perform the ceremony of opening the new Nurses' Home at the London Temperance Hospital on June 10th. Prince Arthur very kindly took her place. Major-General the Earl of Erroll, K.T., C.B., T.D., President of the Hospital, Major Rigg, O.B.E., Chairman, Dr. Porter Parkinson, F.R.C.P., Mr. Herbert Paterson, F.R.C.S., and Miss Marshall, Matron, received His Royal Highness and the guests. A Guard of Honour was formed by Members of the Nursing Staff.

An illuminated address was handed to Prince Arthur by Major Rigg with a request that he would convey it to Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught.

His Royal Highness commenced by thanking those present for the kindly manner in which they had received him, saying that he knew full well that his presence amongst them was a disappointment and he greatly regretted that, owing to a temporary indisposition, the Princess was unable to be present. No matter what he might try to do or try to say, it was impossible for him to claim the right to the well-known letters S.R.N. This was his wife's right, and both he and she were proud of it. Prince Arthur congratulated Major Rigg on his very interesting statement, made in the address to the Princess Arthur, regarding the development of the rebuilding scheme. He expressed warm appreciation at the self-sacrificing and invaluable work for the nation done by the nursing profession, and his conviction that the nurses ought to have just such a beautiful Home as this new building had provided for them. He warmly congratulated Mr. Ferrier, the architect, on the success of his designs which had resulted in the erection of a very fine building, a building which had improved the appearance of the Hospital, and would promote its efficiency. His Royal Highness congratulated Mr. Paterson who, in an unobtrusive manner, had been the initial mind working to help on the reconstruction scheme, and it was characteristic

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