

Of his patriotic services in the Great War suffice it to say that he designed the Barnett Optical Sight for the S.M.L.E. Rifle, and was mentioned in the Secretary for War's list "for valuable services in connection with war."

As we know, he has also brought his penetrating mind to bear on the problems of peace, and that trained nurses have found in him an able, dignified, and chivalrous supporter and exponent of their aspirations, in connection with the campaign for their professional enfranchisement, in the House of Commons. It is for these reasons that we are here to-night to ask Major Barnett to honour us by accepting a copy of the Register of Nurses for 1924, so that he may possess, in concrete form, evidence that after over thirty years of striving—years in which we had to contend with social and economic forces of which we were only dimly conscious when we entered, with such high hopes, close upon forty years ago, on the campaign for the legal registration of nurses which should give us the power to conserve the honour and interests of our profession, to regulate its educational standards: in short, to exercise the

every hour of her life with vital emotion. Every line in the Register of Nurses stands for a life devoted to duty. One cannot value the fullness thereof.

The whole movement for the State Registration of Nurses was initiated by women inspired by the loftiest ideals of what their profession might attain, and their ceaseless labours in support of their convictions, which covered a period of over thirty years until victory was won, is, we contend, one of the finest lessons of what may be accomplished by courage, tenacity of purpose and self-sacrifice in the service of the community.

But throughout the whole campaign, heart-breaking as it was at times, yet coloured with many purple patches, the nurses were greatly favoured in the honourable legislators who supported their cause.

First came Dr. Farquharson of Haughton, who later enlisted the most valuable help of Mr. Munro Ferguson and his brilliant wife, now Lord and Lady Novar, who fathered our Bill in the House of Commons from 1904 to 1913, during which years of the Liberal administration the nurses



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PRESENTATION OF REGISTER OF NURSES TO MAJOR R. W. BARNETT, M.P., BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, S.R.N.

functions of self-government, the only solid foundation on which to build up a profession. (Applause.)

Let it not be thought that this Register of Nurses is a dry record of names, a mere ledger of materialism. It is something quite otherwise. It is a record full of romance, to us almost a *sacred* book. When one attempts to visualise the services rendered, and the immense humanitarian work which has been accomplished in the aggregate—by women whose names are inscribed in this volume. From birth to death have they not come into intimate communion with their fellow-creatures in the supreme moments of life? Have they not, in handling the new-born, shared in the rapture of maternity? With their knowledge guided the young through the dangers of infancy and childhood, preserving for many radiant health? In times of nerve strain and pain, how much of solace and relief have they not brought to the service of the sick? Do not the old rely upon their strength and sympathy, and, when loved ones pass on, the true nurse shares the agonising sorrow in the early days of bereavement. The nurses' high vocation may fill

realised that their Cause was almost a forlorn hope. Had the Liberal Party been able to appreciate this great movement for the benefit of National Health, their opportunity was to hand when Lord Ampthill carried our Bill in triumph through the House of Lords in 1908, having defeated that crude and tyrannical Measure, the Directory of Nurses Bill, introduced by the late Lord Balfour of Burleigh on behalf of the now defunct Central Hospital Council for London.

Lord Ampthill's triumph was the beginning of the end, and when Dr. Chapple, in charge of the Bill in the Commons in 1914, tested the opinion of the House on the principle of the State Registration of Nurses, under the ten minutes' rule, with the result that the first Reading was passed with the support of every party in the House, by a majority of 228, that vote settled our professional fate. After such an expression of opinion, it was only a matter of time when the Government of the day would be compelled to standardise the professional education of nurses, provide for their Registration, and thus protect the public from unskilled attendance in sickness.

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