

not, there is one possession of which her opponents can never deprive her—the proud consciousness that she has done more than any other woman, and more than any man, to achieve victory for the cause of the State Registration of Nurses. (Applause.)

Referring to his success in the ballot in 1919, Major Barnett said that many members balloted for twenty years without getting a place. He continued: Every Member of Parliament gets scores of letters asking him to introduce measures in which the writers are interested, and as the likelihood of his securing a favourable place is so remote, he is strongly tempted to answer them all in the affirmative. It is only when he is successful that trouble arises. (Laughter.)

Remembering, however, the sage advice, "Be careful what you pray for; you may get it," I had only promised in the event of my being successful in the ballot, to introduce the Nurses' Registration Bill promoted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. When I did win a place I was astonished at the bombardment to which I was subjected by my friends in the House of Commons, and the amazement of some of them when I said I was pledged to bring in the Nurses' Registration Bill. "Going to take up the Nurses' Registration Bill?" exclaimed one member. "Have you ever heard of Nero fiddling while Rome was burning?" He thought a Bill which he wished me to introduce immeasurably more important. I did not agree with him, and I added that there was a further consideration which seemed to me final. "And what is that, may I ask?" "Well," I said, "merely this: I have given my word." (Applause.)

On March 28th, 1919, when I moved the Second Reading of the Nurses' Registration Bill, both the Ladies' Gallery and the Members' Gallery of the House of Commons were dominated by members of the nursing profession. I had collected passes from all my friends, and, in the words of Milton, there was "Store of ladies, whose bright eyes rain influence."

The Bill, as you know, passed through the Committee Stage upstairs and there were some battles on the floor of the House on the Report Stage. I am glad that our Chairman paid a tribute to Dr. Addison, for it was he who saved the situation by coming forward as Minister of Health and promising to introduce a Government Measure. What he did was to take our Bill, divide it like Cæsar's "All Gaul" into three parts—a Bill for England and Wales, a Bill for Scotland and a Bill for Ireland—and then cut a large chunk, which included the contentious part, out of the middle of the Bill, and place this in a schedule at the end.

Certain people who had shown a merciless hostility to our Bill during its passage through the House found that the sentiment of their nurse constituents would not tolerate further opposition to the Bill now that it had become a Government Measure. So they turned right round and altogether blessed it only to be finally nonplussed when they went in deputation to the Minister of Health, and Dr. Addison began his speech by saying:—"You see this really is Major Barnett's Bill." (Cheers and laughter.)

Then in June, 1923, a member whose heart was perhaps stronger than his head, moved an Address to His Majesty praying that an Amendment might be made to certain rules made by the General Nursing Council—an Amendment which had the effect of widening the terms of admission to the Register. The Labour Party went into the Lobby against the present Minister of Health, and the Amendment was carried, but it did not do so much harm as it might have done, because the period of grace for Existing Nurses ended on July 14th, 1923. There is a great deal of floppy sentimentality in the world, and the supporters of the Amendment apparently forgot that "hard cases make bad law."

I wish every prosperity to the Nursing Profession. I thank you, Ladies, for your charming hospitality this evening; and I assure you that it will always be a joy to me to remember that I have been privileged, in however small a degree, to help the Nurses in the attainment of their heart's desire. (Prolonged applause.)

The Toast Master

Ladies and Gentlemen, "pray silence" for Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, S.R.N., formerly Vice-President of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews

Mrs. Lancelot Andrews said: Mine is the honour of proposing a "Vote of Thanks" to our Chairman this evening, and there is so much to say and so little time in which to say it that I can only speak of one or two things amongst many memories since the days of long ago when the admiration with which we regarded you, Madam Chair, was tinged with awe.

All here are supporters and followers of yours, and we are grateful to you for having allowed us to share in your work for State Registration of Nurses. All too are your personal friends and probationers as well as supporters, and many remember how, forty years ago, you saw quite clearly the organisation that was needed for our Profession, and set out to attain it.

Then came obstruction, opposition, but you, with no axe to grind, could be diverted into no sidetracks, but kept straight a-ong the road which led to the victory which we are here to-night to celebrate.

Co-incidentally with that great work you were also identifying yourself with the spirit of Internationalism and there again you were inspired with the wonderful vision which led you to found that great Federation of Nurses which to-day encircles the world. Vision—struggle—achievement, but the end is not yet, and a younger generation must carry on the work the foundations of which you have laid so well, with such single-minded devotion. Leader and friend, we offer you our thanks, together with the hope that you may for long be spared to us, and see the fruition of your hopes.

The Chairman's Acknowledgments to Mrs. Andrews.

Round after round of applause greeted the Chairman when she rose to reply, those present acclaiming her with musical honours in a way which gave expression to their deep feelings.

Acknowledging Mrs. Andrews's vote of thanks, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said: "To-night is a delightful occasion which many might envy, for so many people have worked all their lives to promote a cause and have never seen the result. Allusion has been made this evening to the difficulties and heart-break incurred during the campaign for State Registration of Nurses, and these have not been lacking, but we must not forget our share of happiness, fun, and satisfaction. I most heartily thank Mrs. Andrews for her kind allusion to my work. To devote one's life to an uphill struggle for reform is stimulating, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my part in the play, to which I was predestined. It is a privilege to have been able to carry on, through all the stress and storm of the demand for State Registration of Nurses until the Nursing Acts for England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland were placed on the Statute Book, and to have been given wonderful help from my colleagues. Eternal vigilance is necessary for the preservation of liberty, and we have to look forward now to the exercise of that vigilance by the young, to the generation of nurses now entering upon their heritage, and to those who will succeed them. Major Barnett has spoken of the administration of the Nurses' Registration Act in England and Wales, we are not satisfied with its administration by those members of the Council who opposed the Registration

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