

OF NURSES DESIRES TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE, AND THAT OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF TRAINED NURSES WHICH IT REPRESENTS, TO LORD AMPHILL FOR THE MASTERLY WAY IN WHICH HE PRESENTED THEIR CASE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, AND FOR HIS VIGILANCE IN REGARD TO THEIR INTERESTS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT BILLS FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES WERE BEFORE THAT HOUSE IN DECEMBER, 1919.

ON DECEMBER 23RD, 1919, BILLS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NURSES IN ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND RECEIVED THE ROYAL ASSENT, THUS CONSTITUTING TRAINED NURSING AS A LEGALISED PROFESSION IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

#### THE PRESENTATION.

In handing the Presentation Copy of the Nurses' Register to Lord Amptill, who received it with evident pleasure, Mrs. Fenwick drew his attention to the valuable system of compilation, securing as it does for every Registered Nurse, a record in parallel columns of number, name, permanent address, date and place of registration, and qualifications.

#### LORD AMPHILL'S SPEECH.

Lord Amptill, who was warmly applauded, said:— I cannot tell you how deeply touched I am by this demonstration. When Mrs. Bedford Fenwick wrote suggesting that this presentation should be made to me I thought it extraordinarily kind, and was surprised that any one remembered that I had any share in promoting legislation to secure State Registration of Nurses. Gratitude is short-lived, and I am not used to receiving it. Nor, in this instance, is it necessary. It has been the greatest privilege to be of any service at all to the great profession of Nursing, on the invitation of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and it was the greatest piece of good fortune for me to be associated with her. Much has happened since I introduced and carried through the House of Lords in 1908 the Nurses' Registration Bill, when State Registration of Nurses was already much overdue. I had forgotten all those circumstances which she has related, and have been very glad to have them recalled to my mind again. I have greatly admired the determination and pluck and faith which actuated Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in her 21 years' unswerving work to secure legislation to promote the health of the Nation, and I was proud to do anything she asked, and told, me to do.

The campaign for State Registration was not without fun. I like a fight, and we had a desperate struggle. Those opposed to us were not over scrupulous and did not play the game. We were up against vested interests of the most powerful kind. I wonder if those people now have the grace to be ashamed of themselves. Is there anybody who does not now believe in the benefit of State Registration of Nurses?

I am glad and proud to be here, to see in this volume of 50,000 names the consummation of the work for Registration. With all my heart I hope that the profession of nursing will go from strength to strength now that they have legal status.

I was glad to hear what Mr. Paterson said as to the part played in the vocation of the healing of the sick by doctors and nurses as one whole.

Does anyone who knows about the development of district nursing, and health visiting, ever doubt that the profession of nursing is second to no other? It is wonderful that there are women who devote their lives to this vocation of perpetual sacrifice in which I hope there are compensations. Wherever I see a nurse I feel thankfulness to Almighty God that there are women willing to take up nursing as a profession.

You have thanked me far too much. I am more than ever impressed by the fact that State Registration of Nurses was secured at last because of the courage, and determina-

tion and faith of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. What I have always admired so much in her is that she has never claimed any credit for herself, and has cared only for the object she had in view. But all who have had anything to do with the movement know that it has been the great life work of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to whom nurses owe State Registration, and that her name in this connection will be famous for generations to come. (Prolonged applause.)

#### IRISH NURSES ALSO GRATEFUL.

Miss L. Ramsden (who was President of the Irish Nurses' Association when Lord Amptill's Bill was before the House of Lords) said she well remembered the consternation in Ireland when it became known that, at the instance of the Irish Local Government Board, a clause had been inserted in the Bill that it should not extend to Ireland. Vigorous steps were at once taken by the Irish Nurses' Association to secure the deletion of this clause, and great were the congratulations and rejoicings when these efforts met with success, and Ireland was re-included in the provisions of the Bill. She felt sure she was expressing the opinions of Irish nurses when she expressed thanks to Lord Amptill for his great services in promoting the State Registration of Nurses.

Mrs. Fenwick briefly thanked Lord Amptill for the kind things he had said of her work, "being human she thoroughly enjoyed them."

The ceremony then terminated, and Lord Amptill took tea with the members of the Central Committee present, and made many enquiries as to the progress of nursing under the Act. He was specially interested in the Report of the recent Select Committee secured by Registered Nurses, and their satisfaction in having won a signal victory in the unrestricted Constitution of the future General Nursing Council. Those present were delighted to renew acquaintance with so sincere a friend.

#### LETTER FROM LORD AMPHILL.

The following letter has been received from Lord Amptill by the Hon. Secretary, Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses:—

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—I have safely received the Register of Nurses and you may rest assured that the book, with its far too flattering inscription, will be carefully preserved with those possessions of mine which I shall never part from so long as I have a house in which to keep them.

I must tell you once more that I was deeply moved by the kindness which led you and your friends to arrange that pleasant little ceremony on Thursday last. I am afraid that I did not express myself at all adequately on that occasion, as I was quite unprepared for the unmerited compliments which you lavished upon me. I realised, however, that you had put yourself to an immense amount of trouble and that all those present had made an effort which may have been inconvenient to them. The high regard which I have for the members of the Nursing profession has been considerably increased by this proof that they have a long memory for anything which they regard as a benefit, and that is, indeed, an unusual and very charming quality.

With renewed thanks for your kindness and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,  
AMPHILL.

Trained Nurses will have noted with concern that Lord Amptill was involved in a motor accident near Bedford, on Tuesday, owing to an impact with another car, and will learn with thankfulness that he escaped injury.

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