

Amptill laid great stress upon it when, in 1908, he successfully carried the Nurses' Registration Bill through the House of Lords. Then for eleven years the Bill did not get a hearing, although Mr. Asquith had promised to give it his support, but subsequently said that "things had changed."

Then Sir Richard Barnett entered the lists, and, like his predecessor, Richard Cœur de Lion, played a valiant part.

#### Sir Richard Barnett's Reply.

Sir Richard Barnett, who was greeted with much applause, said:—

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, I beg to thank you for the kind things you have said, which make me proud and gratified. My part in relation to State Registration of Nurses is little in comparison to the battle you have fought with hope deferred and courage which might well have been daunted. I heartily congratulate you on the achievement of your object after thirty years' work.

I also sincerely thank Miss Pelham Williams for her gift to the British College of Nurses.

There has been no lack of enthusiasm on the part of the nurses, who, on one memorable occasion, broke all rules of Parliamentary procedure, and burst into cheers at a statement in support of State Registration from the floor of the House which pleased them.

All that has happened is for good, and I understand that there are now some 34,000 nurses organised in the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, which sent a large party of nurses to the great International Congress of Nurses in Montreal recently, organised by the International Council of Nurses, of which you are the Founder.

Sir Richard thanked Miss Beatrice Kent also for her speech, and concluded by saying that in the course of his Parliamentary career of thirteen years nothing had given him greater happiness than the fact that he had been permitted to assist in raising the noblest of vocations to the status and dignity of a profession.

Those present then adjourned to the Council Chamber and Secretary's office, where tea was served, and many of those present expressed personally their pleasure at again meeting Sir Richard Barnett.

Trained nurses were exceptionally fortunate in securing as their champion in the House of Commons Major Sir Richard Barnett. From first to last he handled the question of their State Registration with masterly skill, bringing to bear upon it the acumen of a legal mind.

## THE WINTER SESSION OF THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

Following on the Opening Meeting of the Winter Session of the British College of Nurses a series of Lectures have been given at 39, Portland Place, and the good attendances of Fellows, Members and others have shown how keenly these have been appreciated. We publish in this issue notes of two lectures by Dr. Ida Mann, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., on "Eyes," and of Explanatory Statements by Miss Gladys Le Geyt, F.B.C.N., and Miss Norah Farrant, F.B.C.N., on the

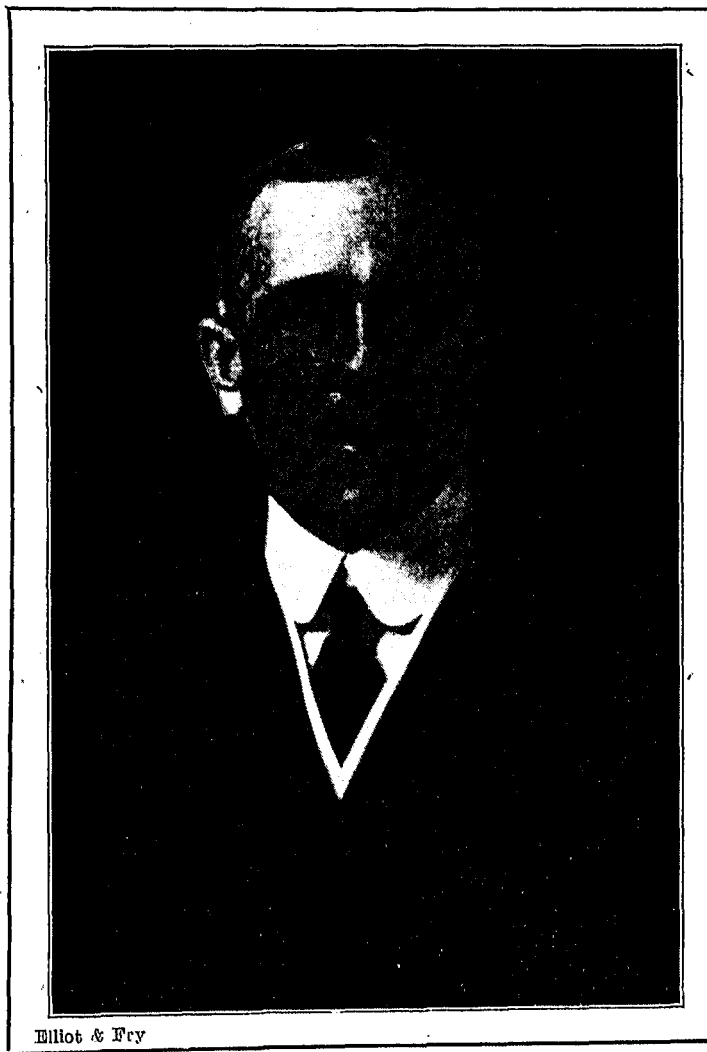
Report of the Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Health appointed to consider the working of the Midwives' Acts. We also publish a note of Dr. W. H. F. Oxley's explanation of the Memorandum issued by the British Medical Association "Outlining a National Maternity Service Scheme for England and Wales," and in a future issue hope to report the very interesting lectures by Professor Mottram, M.A., on Dietetics, and by Dr. Arthur Roshier on Bacteriology.

### OPHTHALMIC LECTURES.

Two lectures on "Eyes" were given on October 29th and 31st by Miss Ida Mann, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., at the British College of Nurses. The lecturer dealt with three aspects of the subject, namely the structure of the eye, the situation of the more usual diseases and, lastly, methods of treatment commonly in use and hints on the nursing of ophthalmic cases. The following is a brief report:—

*Structure of the eye.*—The eye itself is an almost spherical organ, situated in the orbit and connected with the brain by a long stalk, the optic nerve. The eye has three coats: the outer or sclerotic coat is white and tough and serves

to maintain the form of the eyeball. Its front portion, the cornea, is transparent to allow of the passage of light into the interior of the eye. The middle coat is the choroid. It is composed of blood vessels and is nutritional in function. Its anterior part is the iris, which is pierced by a circular hole, the pupil. Just behind the pupil is the lens which focuses the light on to the third coat, or retina, which lines the inside of the eye and is made of nerve fibres and cells. This coat serves to perceive the rays of light focused on it and to convey a message of the thing seen to the brain. All the structures in the inside of the eye are extremely delicate and soft, and may be easily injured by blows, perforating wounds or by inflammation.



Elliot & Fry

MAJOR SIR RICHARD BARNETT,  
The Nurses' Champion.

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