

statement: "I need not trouble the House with Clause 4, except to say that it deals with the necessary fees." Why not? Surely the financing of this contentious legislation should have been seriously emphasised and considered by the members of the House of Commons and House of Lords.

On referring to the Bill we found that the fee to be paid by Assistant Nurses for enrolment was not to exceed one guinea, and an annual retention fee not to exceed two shillings and sixpence!

We realised that the Minister had commandeered, without their consent, the Headquarters of the State Registered Nurses, for which they had paid, and that as the annual expenditure of the General Nursing Council amounts to between fifty and sixty thousand pounds—paid by the Registered Nurses—Mr. Brown's method of financing the enrolment and control of untrained and semi-trained Assistant Nurses could not possibly meet the cost. What the Registered Nurses want to know is, who is going to pay the deficit, as no provision is made for this to be done in the Nurses Act by the Treasury, as under the Midwives Act?

Is it proposed that the Registered Nurses shall finance their own de-grading and economic competition with the semi-trained? If so, no more intolerably unjust legislation could be enforced, and it is high time Registered Nurses took legal advice on the question.

Here is a little bill for Mr. Ernest Brown and the G.N.C. :—

**Enrolment and Control of Assistant Nurses.
Annual Expenditure.**

Rent.	Cost of compiling and printing the Roll.
Rates and taxes.	Water.
Equipment.	Light.
Repairs and renewals.	Heat.
Insurance.	Laundry.
Clerical service.	Wear and tear.
Domestic service.	First-class travelling expenses for 11 persons to attend meetings of the Assistant Nurses Committee.
Audit fees.	Subsistence for 11 persons.
Telephone.	
Telegrams.	
Postage.	
Printing.	

THE PASSING BELL.

A NATIONAL LOSS.

News has been received, with very deep regret, of the deaths of the following Sisters, presumably killed in action at sea :—

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

Miss Janet Macfarlane Davidson, S.R.N., R.F.N., on December 2nd, 1942.

Miss Constance Dorothy Manfield, on October 27th, 1942.

Miss Harriet Lowbridge, S.R.N., S.C.M., after a long illness.

Territorial Army Nursing Service.

Miss Annie Mildred Davies.

Miss Joyce Walters.

All these devoted women gave loyal service to their country, and it owes them warm gratitude and that they should be kept in memory.

BUREAUCRACY.

"RESOLVED TO DIE IN THE LAST DYKE."

As we reported in our last issue the letter addressed to the Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P., Minister of Labour and National Service, upon his refusal to give representation to Incorporated Registered Nurses' Organisations, on the "National Advisory Council for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives" it will interest Registered Nurses, we feel sure, to realise the reasons advanced by the Minister for their exclusion.

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL SERVICE,
St. James's Square,
London, S.W.1.

March 4th, 1943.

MADAM,—I am directed to refer to your letter of February 20th, 1943, in which you make application for representation of the British College of Nurses on the "National Advisory Committee for the Recruitment and Distribution of Nurses and Midwives," which has just been set up. I am to state that it has been the aim of the Minister in apportioning the membership of the Council to arrange that each type of nursing interest shall be represented, as well as each type of employing body. At the urgent request of the organisations concerned the size of the Council was increased beyond what had originally been planned, and ten members now represent the different aspects of nursing work. I am therefore directed to say that the Minister has given careful consideration to your request for representation, but regrets that he is unable to accede to your request and to increase still further the size of the Council.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

G. M. JONES.

To THE PRESIDENT,
The British College of Nurses, Ltd.,
19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

Our readers will note that the Minister states :—

(1) That each type of nursing interest shall be represented. Let us dissect this statement.

The only organisations of nurses given representation are (1) The Association of Hospital Matrons, the prime movers for the de-grading of the Nursing Profession, by the enrolment of semi-trained Assistant Nurses by Parliament; and (2) The Royal College of Nursing, which is governed by a conjoint Council of Medical practitioners and the laity, in co-operation with nurse members, and where it is apparent that official bureaucracy is rampant, it cannot be classed as a Nurses' self-governing organisation.

Where do the interests of the Incorporated Nurses' Organisations come in? Or the societies of free nurses? The truth is that they have been rigorously excluded from representation because they are in open opposition to the de-grading of Nursing efficiency which the Nurses Act, backed by Mr. Bevin, makes inevitable, by the registration by Parliament of semi-trained untested Assistant Nurses.

(2) Mr. Bevin then states: "At the urgent request of the organisations concerned, the size of the Council was increased beyond what had originally been planned . . . and regrets that he is unable to accede to your request and to increase still further the size of the Council."

Then Lo and Behold! on April 11th, the following announcement is sent to the Press :—

"The Minister of Labour and National Service an-

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