

held by all sections of the community was given at his funeral.

The church was packed with sorrowing friends and representatives of the many organisations with which Dr. Tremble in his lifetime was associated, and mourners waited at the cemetery to pay their last tribute to a man who, both in his private and professional life, never performed an unkind action nor turned away an appeal for help.

Scores of nurses—in Hospital, V.A.D., and St. John uniforms—paraded to pay their respects to the man who had devoted so much of his time to training them and furthering their interests. Many more old soldiers and quite a lot of serving soldiers were also at the funeral to say a last "Thank you" for all he had done for them in the last 20 years, to bid "Johnnie" a last, heartbreaking farewell.

## NURSING POLITICS.

### A New Government.

Since our last issue we have a new Government. Labour decided to terminate co-operation. The Premier resigned. His Majesty the King invited Mr. Churchill to form a new Government. This in a few days he did—so, so together we go!

The most important result will be an election of a new Parliament on July 5th, and this is where we enfranchised nurses come in. Let us hope thousands of Registered Nurses will do their duty and record their votes *only* for such candidates as will promise to replace the Nursing Profession on a just basis—self-government through professional organisation, and down with unprofessional autocracy by lay Ministers and their salaried assistants, who at present dominate our lives, work and status, and are rapidly eliminating skilled professional nursing as a woman's profession.

### What Registered Nurses Have Gained.

We have, of course, been affected by a new Parliament. Mr. H. U. Willink remains Minister of Health—we had hoped for a change, as he maintains autocratic rule, an attitude which as a K.C. he would deprecate for his legal colleagues in their profession.

Our great asset is the departure of Miss Florence Horsbrugh, M.P., from the position as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, where her ignorance of nursing, and the status of the Registered Nurse, determinedly de-graded our educational standards and professional status in and out of Parliament.

Miss Horsbrugh has been moved to the Ministry of Food, where presumably her interference with the Nursing Profession will cease.

### Exit the Registered Nurse.

How few people apparently study history, or at all events realise its significance.

Thus when the *Lancet* opened its attack upon nursing standards in 1930, its insidious danger was expressed by this Journal alone, and the inevitable result of its policy of depreciation ignored. Since which day expediency has been its policy, and we are being gradually eliminated as a first-class profession for women, a privilege conferred upon us by the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919.

The policy of the *Lancet* secured the advocacy of the Inter-departmental Committee on Nursing Services (the Athlone Committee) in 1937, advocating a grade of nurse entitled "Assistant Nurse."

The *Lancet* later manipulated its Assistant Editor, the late Mrs. M. H. Kettle, on to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, who annually for five sessions proposed the elimination of the One Portal to the Register, which was carried in 1938, since which time the

floodgates to security have been open to dangerous inefficiency.

From this time the depreciation of nursing standards has been supported by the recommendations of the Horder Committee of the Royal College of Nursing, incorporated in a Bill drafted "in confidence" by Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., then Minister of Health, and Mr. Ernest Bevin, M.P., Minister of Labour—legislation which has not only depreciated Nursing as a Profession, but has proved a failure, in spite of every effort to substitute expediency for sound and safe standards of nursing for the sick poor. The Roll of Assistant Nurses is failing in spite of placing upon it untrained women of every class, using the Headquarters of the Registered Nurses for the purpose, and using our fees if necessary to undermine our stability. Even "Assistant Nurses" object to be classed with untrained "Faith Healers." They also want more money—an inevitable demand in this age of avarice!

### The "Lancet" Returns to the Attack.

The recent issue of the *Lancet* of May 26th last proposes practically the elimination of the State Registered Nurse, "a novel suggestion," according to the medical Correspondent of the *Times* "for remedying the shortage of nurses." This is, that a two-year essential practical examination should lead to the title of "State-Qualified Nurse (S.Q.N.\*)" and that State Registered Nurse (S.R.N.) would be able to obtain a higher diploma, possibly granted by the Universities after a more prolonged training and a stiffer examination.

"The object of the basic training for the S.Q.N. . . . is to secure a competent and handy nurse, trained to make a patient comfortable and to carry out those essential nursing duties which may have to be undertaken in the home for a sick relative."

The *Lancet* says: "There must be no paralysing three months in sluice-room to spoil keenness, and no boarding school discipline in the Nurses' Home to breed discontent."

"The idea of a second grade of nurse, inherent in the establishment of the 'assistant nurse' has never been enthusiastically welcomed, because the name seemed to carry some stigma. A really attractive S.Q.N. scheme now might recruit to the nursing profession many young women who will soon be leaving the Forces."

Exit the highly qualified, skilled and competent Registered Nurse—the assistant of modern medicine and surgery in the practical care of the sick, and let us revert to the pre-Crimean standards obsolete for half a century—that is really the demand of the *Lancet*.

That it is grotesque and obsolete is no reason that we should ignore it.

We call upon Registered Nurses to awake to the danger of ignoring the *Lancet's* propaganda, and by every means in their power to stand for efficient nursing education and the legal status they have worked and paid for.

Let us remember we are the servants of the sick. Let us also remember no other man is our master.

### Male Nurses Protest.

We are glad to note that the Society of Registered Male Nurses is making a public protest against the action of the Minister of Health in proposing to place before Parliament the demand to allow the use of the title "Nurse" to certain persons who have not had the requisite training.

### Draft Statutory Rules and Orders.

Mr. H. U. Willink, M.P., remains Minister of Health, and he has placed before Parliament Draft Statutory Rules and Orders dated April 17th, 1945, and of Section 6 of the Nurses Act, 1943.

In exercise of the powers conferred on him by proviso (b) to sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Nurses Act, 1943.

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