

At this juncture, very fortunately for us, Dr. Addison, then Minister of Health and now Lord Addison, consented, as a Government measure, to bring in Nurses' Bills, which were read a Third Time, and sent automatically to the House of Lords.

Then came the final triumph when the King's Assent was given to the Nurses' Registration Bills in the House of Lords on Tuesday, December 23rd, 1919 :

"The King wills that the Nurses for the Sick in the United Kingdom shall be raised to the dignity of a Profession having legal status." That was the proud privilege conferred by the Royal Assent to the Nurses' Registration Bills in the House of Lords on Tuesday, December 23rd. The trained nurses, whose privilege it was to be present on this historic occasion, when with dignified ceremonial the

but humbly to follow in support of the Cause was to experience many thrilling excitements : the lobbying in the House of Commons which had to be done, and to feel keenly, too, when the Cause was in the trough of the wave.

The Scrapping of the Register of Nurses.

One result of State Registration was to provide for the publication of the Register of Nurses, the one tangible evidence of the nurses' qualifications.

We are, therefore, sorry to say that in these soul-destroying times we may not end our talk on the note of triumph won in 1919 which gave to nurses by Act of Parliament a Register of Nurses in these words :—

"It shall be the duty of the Council to form and keep a Register of Nurses for the Sick."

What a splendid tome it is as we see it to-day !—in three volumes, beautifully bound and compiled, in which, up to 1947, 130,505 nurses may proudly find written evidence of their training and successful acquisition of professional status and efficiency. Surely it is not beyond the power of the Council of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to find other means of economy !

Little did the group of pioneers dream of such calamitous betrayal of their labours when they met to present to Lord Ampthill (and at a later date to Sir Richard Barnett) a copy of the first Register of Nurses, and so placed on record their expressed gratitude to them for their loyal and able support of State Registration.

We remind nurses that anything worth having must be fought for, and we therefore implore them promptly to protest against any withdrawal of their rights sanctioned by Act of Parliament.

Miss H. McLoughlin, President, was in the Chair, and expressed warm thanks to Miss Bryson for her able and very instructive Address on a very short history of the struggle for the State Registration of Nurses. She was

especially pleased to see so many young people present, whom she felt it would inspire to learn something of the pioneers of that Movement.

The Cutting of the Cake.

The Councillors standing at the lighting of the candles were : the President, Miss H. McLoughlin ; Vice-President, Miss M. B. MacKellar ; Miss A. Stewart Bryson, Miss F. R. Roberts, Miss L. Clark.

The President, assisted by the Vice-President, then cut the cake, which was handed round to a large gathering of Fellows, Members and friends amidst much merry chatter. And so ended a memorable and happy Commemoration Day.



Miss H. McLoughlin,
President

Miss M. B. MacKellar,
Vice-President

Miss A. Stewart Bryson.

CUTTING THE CAKE.

King's Will was proclaimed, were filled with unutterable thankfulness that the goal towards which they had striven for so many years was attained at last, and that power was conferred on the Profession of Nursing to fit itself worthily to fulfil its responsibilities to the community, which should be the aspiration of every Registered Nurse.

In this connection, we vividly recall the story of one of our members, Miss Pauline Shekleton, who, in her excitement when lobbying, seized the coat-tails of the late Lord Dufferin of Ava, to plead that he would support the Nurses' Registration Bill. She received a somewhat aloof reply : "I may vote *for* the Bill, I may vote *against* the Bill ; but what are you doing out so late ?" Her retort was : "I am doing my duty."

What we have just recorded must seem somewhat prosaic ;

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