

parity if it reaches 7s. per bushel, but that they should not have the world's parity if it exceeds that figure, we should follow the thing in the descending scale. If it is logical to say that they must not have world's parity if the price exceeds 7s., such a provision does not square with justice. I would much prefer to see the growers supply wheat for local consumption at a price fixed through the whole season of 12 months. That would be a fair, reasonable and honourable provision. The provision that they shall not have the advantage of world's parity beyond 7s. is not reasonable or just. I understand that the farmers' representatives do not view this particular provision as a vital issue. It may be that it will never become a vital issue, for the price of wheat may never reach 7s., but immediately the world's parity reaches 7s. it will become a vital issue. If the farmer is entitled to world's parity at 6s. 11½d., then he is just as entitled to world's parity at 7s. ¼d. I believe it would be in the interests of the community generally, if a fair and honest compromise could be arrived at between Parliament and growers, so that the season's wheat would be paid for at a flat rate as we paid last year.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You need not let the 7s. worry you very much, for we will never reach it.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If there is no chance of reaching it, why is that provision there? If we do reach it, it will be an injustice and should not appear in the Bill.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: They wanted to safeguard against a price of 9s.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It does not provide any safeguard against that at all. Suppose the world's parity continued at 9s., who would get the benefit of that figure? There can be no benefit in it over a given period without a spirit of give and take. I believe that the consensus of Australian opinion is that we have entered into a bargain, and we must be prepared to abide by it.

Hon. T. Moore: Who entered into it?

Hon. J. CORNELL: We know who entered into it. The machinery existing under the Act was put into operation, and resulted in the State entering into this agreement.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Who prompted those in control to enter into it?

Hon. J. CORNELL: I think it always well to forget the past. I wish I could do so. The bargain was made, and the price was fixed at 9s. I think that had it been 11s., it would all have been in the game. Do not let us be superficial, but go right into the whole matter. If we do so, we will find that no community in the world secured its wheat cheaper than the Australian community. We have heard references to the price of 9s. per bushel imposed upon the pig farmers, the poultry raisers and others. Members know the attitude I adopted on the inferior wheat question. I held up this Chamber for two nights.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I remember it very well.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It is remarkable to follow the variation and the fluctuations of time and things. If we do so, we will discover, despite the fact that wheat has been at the highest price per bushel within the recollection of living man in the Commonwealth, that, so far as Western Australia is concerned, the poultry raisers have received the lowest price for their eggs.

Hon. J. Duffell: Not in the Eastern States.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I am speaking about Western Australia.

Hon. F. A. Baglin: You are wrong. Eggs were cheaper than they are now.

Hon. J. CORNELL: This will show that the price of wheat after all does not altogether determine the price of the product of the fowl.

Hon. T. Moore: The farmer is supplying eggs now.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I have heard that there is a conspiracy on the part of the Farmers Co-operative Society to drive the genuine poultry farmer out of the business of egg production.

Hon. T. Moore: Which has been done. The farmers get the eggs.

Hon. J. CORNELL: But they get nothing for them. This Bill is essentially one for the Committee stage, and I will vote for the continuance of the pool, because it is in the best interests of the people who, after all, are the backbone of the State and the ones most worthy of consideration.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.51 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 13th October, 1921.*

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAYS.

### Loading.

Mr. CHESON (for Mr. Corboy) asked the Minister for Railways: Dealing with paragraph 19, page 10, of the annual report of the Commissioner of Railways, what is— 1, The number and salaries of the officers engaged in watching the loading carried? 2, The gain per cent. in loading on the lines mentioned as the result of the work of these officers? 3, What is the average load of goods per goods and mixed trains for the year ending 30th June, 1921? 4, What is the increase in the load compared with the 72.2 tons shown in the annual report for year ending 30th June, 1920?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The officers specially deputed to go into the question of train loads on the sections mentioned and conduct necessary tests were: Superintendent of Transportation, Traffic Branch; Superintendent of Loco. Running, Loco. Branch; Assistant Chief Engineer, Way and Works, W. & W. Branch; O.I.C., Secretary's Branch. Their salaries are at the rate of £2,283 per annum. 2, Maximum loads have been increased as follows:—

Section.	Load Increased between—	From tons.	To tons.	Date.
Collie-Brunswick ...	Fernbrook-Brunswick	370	415	30-12-20
Jarnedup-Bridgetown	Manjimup-275-Mile ...	350	650	30-12-20
Bridgetown - Donnybrook	Kirrup-Donnybrook...	280	560	25-12-20
Nannup-Busselton ...	Bibbup-Jarrahwood...	375	750	18-9-20
Nannup-Busselton ...	Jarrahwood-Quillup	100	108	30-12-20
Gwambygine-Spencer's Brook	Gwambygine-Spencer's Brook	600	750	13-5-21

3. 69.95 tons of paying goods. 4, Nil.

### Carriage of T.B. Patients.

Mr. CHESON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that arrangements have been made between the Railway and Health Departments so that reserved compartments on the ten past seven a.m. Albany train will be placed at the disposal

of T.B. patients who have been ordered by the Medical Department to go into Wooreloo Sanatorium. 2, Is he also aware that two compartments were reserved on yesterday's train for two patients who were in a very low state of health, so low that it necessitated two attendants travelling with them, one having an orderly from the Public Hospital in attendance, the other a nurse? 3, Is he also aware that the train was so crowded that the railway officials allowed ordinary passengers to crowd into these reserved compartments till there was scarcely sitting room? 4, Will he in future see that the arrangements with the Health Department are carried out in their entirety?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Two compartments were reserved, but the Railway Department has no knowledge of the condition of the patients. 3, The train was not overcrowded. Accommodation was provided for 161 passengers, whereas only 144 travelled. It appears, however, that some ordinary passengers entered into the reserved compartment and certain of the railway staff failed in their duty by allowing them to remain there. 4, Action is being taken to prevent a recurrence.

### QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Mr. LATHAM (for Mr. Pickering) asked the Premier: 1, Has his attention been called to a report that appeared in the "Daily News" of the 11th current as to finally closing down the Vestey's Meat Works? 2, In view of the position of the meat trade, what is his intention with regard to the retention of the staff in connection with the Wyndham Meat Works, seeing that this staff is costing the Government in the neighbourhood of £7,298 per annum whilst the works are not operating?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (for the Premier) replied: 1, Yes. 2, No staff is being retained beyond what is necessary to safeguard the property and affairs of the enterprise.

### QUESTION—WHEAT EXPORTATION.

Capt. CARTER asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, How many vessels have been loaded by the Wheat Board since 1st January, 1921? 2, By whom were such vessels stevedored? 3, What are the respective names of the vessels, and their tonnage?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, 51 vessels have been supplied with wheat or flour for whole or partial loading. 2 and 3, The boats with tonnage supplied

and stevedores, where known, are as follows:—

Steamer.	Tonnage.	Stevedore.
"Sakkarah" ...	7,649	Laurie.
"City of New-castle" ...	201	Not known.
"Cairngowan" ...	7,255	Laurie.
"Chinese Prince" ...	6,915	Laurie.
"Hanna Nielsen" ...	5,707	Forrester.
"Hanna Nielsen" ...	1,890	Laurie.
"Kratos" ...	4,934	Laurie.
"Africanic" ...	5,688	Forrester.
"Ceramic" ...	809	Henry Wills & Co., Ltd.
"Palermo" ...	926	Not known.
"Port Adelaide" ...	1,450	Henry Wills & Co., Ltd.
"Commonwealth" ...	875	Not known.
"Inaerton" ...	7,478	Laurie.
"Siljan" ...	5,753	Laurie.
"City of Adelaide" ...	9,844	Laurie.
"Alstern" ...	4,626	Forrester.
"Cyclops" ...	381	Henry Wills & Co., Ltd.
"Port Stephens" ...	1,653	Not known.
"Bonna" ...	6,294	Millars' Timber and Trading Co., Ltd.
"Anstramlead" ...	825	Not known.
"Omar" ...	482	do.
"Glensloy" ...	5,305	Nicholls (with Fremantle Stevedoring Co., Ltd.)
"Hektor" ...	7,107	Laurie.
"Port Denison" ...	100	Not known.
"Glenmorag" ...	5,182	Forrester.
"Titan" ...	734	Not known.
"Glan Murray" ...	3,082	do.
"Glan McBean" ...	84	do.
"Boonah" ...	1,143	do.
"Bakara" ...	183	do.
"Baron Minto" ...	6,246	Millars' Timber and Trading Co., Ltd.
"Atholl" ...	3,876	Forrester.
"Atholl" ...	1,745	Laurie.
"Mauaar" ...	0,056	Laurie.
"Arnluen" ...	400	Not known.
"Malmen" ...	5,238	Laurie.
"Barambah" ...	996	Not known.
"Glenluss" ...	5,722	Laurie.
"Calulu" ...	100	Not known.
"Moora" ...	6,720	Fremantle Stevedoring Co.
"Dongarra" ...	735	Not known.
"Discoverer" ...	5,364	Laurie.
"Discoverer" ...	1,461	Forrester.
"Travose" ...	61	Not known.
"Booral" ...	674	do.
"Port Albany" ...	954	do.
"City of Naples" ...	721	do.
"Dhoga" ...	3,719	Laurie.
"Portsea" ...	5,100	Millars' Timber and Trading Co., Ltd.
"Wongancella" ...	1,781	Not known.
"Cratua" ...	500	Not known.
"Thermistoclea" ...	302	do.
"Graig" ...	4,528	Fremantle Stevedoring Co., Ltd.
"Ethelfreeda" ...	7,600	Laurie.

Note.—Stevedore, where not known, was not appointed by Wheat Board.

#### QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Premier: Is it his intention to lay on the Table of the House the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the establishment of an Agricultural College for this State?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (for the Premier) replied: This file was laid on the Table last year. If the hon. member desires to peruse it, it will be made available at the Agricultural Department.

#### BILLS (3)—THIRD READING.

1. Mining Act Amendment.
2. Factories and Shops Act Amendment.
3. Stallions.

Transmitted to the Council.

#### BILL—STATE CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, report of Committee adopted.

#### BILL—RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS.

Second Reading.

Order of the Day read for the resumption from 29th September of the debate on the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### BILL—ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT AMENDMENT.

Council's Amendments.

Schedule of five amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. Stubbs in the Chair, the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 2.—Add the following words:—"and every order of adoption made under the principal Act before the commencement of this Act shall have effect as if those words were omitted as from the commencement of the principal Act."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This is an amendment to Clause 2 and makes the legislation on this question retrospective. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Under the Act as it is a name is already given to the child. The Minister now wants another name added if it is desired.

The Colonial Secretary: The child will carry the name of the adopting parent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not know that there is very much in the amendment to object to, but I do not think it will have the effect the Minister said the Bill would have when he introduced it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is desired to place on the same footing all children who have been adopted prior to the passing of this Bill. The surname given by the adopting parent will be the only name the child will have.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2. New Clause.—The record of any proceedings in the Supreme Court under the principal Act shall not be open to public inspection except for some reasonable and proper purpose and with the sanction in writing of the Master.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

If anyone now wants to trace an adopted child he can go to the court and inspect the records there, and also find out from the district registrar where the child is. The amendment will prevent that. Instead of anyone being able to tear away the veil of secrecy so far as the early life of the child is concerned, he will now only be able to do that for a very good reason, and with the sanction of the Master of the Supreme Court. This provision only relates to adopted children.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 3. New clause: Sub-paragraph (3) of Section 5 of the Adoption of Children Act is amended by inserting the following after the words "fifteen years" in line 2: "or if over that age has been under the care and custody of some person for a period of three years, during which time such a person has acted as an adopting parent or otherwise has acted *in loco parentis*."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Under the present Act the age at which a child may be adopted cannot exceed 15 years, but under this provision an adopting parent may make application for adoption if the child is over 15.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 4. New clause: 10b. It shall be the duty of the Registrar of the Supreme Court to furnish to the Registrar General under the Registration of Births, Death, and Marriages Act, 1894, at intervals of not exceeding six months, a return in writing in the prescribed form of the Orders of Adoption made under this Act, and the Registrar General shall cause an entry of every such order to be made in the entry of the birth of the adopted child in the register of births.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

This amendment is necessary because of the previous amendment. It will enable people to trace a child back through the registrar.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 5. New clause: All copies of the principal Act hereafter printed by the Government Printer shall be printed as amended by this Act, under the supervision of the Clerk of Parliaments, and in any such reprint the short title shall be altered to the Adoption of Children Act, 1896-1921.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Council.

## BILL—COURTS OF SESSION.

### Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [4.55] in moving the second reading said: This Bill comes to us from another place. The memorandum attached to it explains as much as possible, I think, of its purport. It may be necessary for me to further point out that the law relating to Courts of General and Quarter Sessions of the Peace is contained in an old ordinance dated 1845. A good deal of difficulty has been occasioned from time to time in the administration of the Act under that ordinance, and it has been thought better to make fresh provision for the local administration of the criminal law. The Bill is, therefore, designed for that purpose. It is proposed to divide the State into sessions divisions, each division to consist of one or more magisterial districts, and a Court of Session to be established for each division. It is not to be compulsory to have such a Court of Session for every part of the State. The Governor-in-Council has discretion as to the kind of court that shall be set up. In some cases we find that no court is necessary. In Perth and the surrounding districts we have the Supreme Court and there is no need for a Court of Session. It is largely for the purpose of providing such courts in districts other than metropolitan districts where no Supreme Court is available. The Bill provides that every court shall be constituted of and held before a chairman, who must be a police or resident magistrate, the chairman and any one or more justices, or a judge of the Supreme Court. No justice, it is provided, may sit in a Court of Session unless he is a justice for the whole State, or a justice for some magisterial district comprised in the division in which the Court of Session is sitting.

Mr. O'Loughlen: An ordinary justice.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is the practice now adopted. A justice for the whole State may sit in any court but a justice registered for any particular district may only sit in the court for that particular district, although he has all the other powers of a justice, such as the witnessing of documents in any part of the State. The whole purpose of appointing justices for a particular district is to provide that he may only sit in the court for that particular district. In the Courts of Session under this Bill, if it becomes law, a justice for the whole of the State or justices in any magisterial district within the sessions division may sit in such court under a chairman, but when a judge of the Supreme Court sits in such court, then he must sit alone and without any justices. A judge is only to sit in such court by virtue of a special writ which will be issued at the instance of the Attorney General. When the judge attends the court he has to preside alone. The provision of such courts will secure a certain amount of

decentralisation in the administration of the criminal law, whilst at the same time it will ensure that the services of a judge can be availed of whenever it is thought desirable.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Will this mean an increased expenditure?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is not intended to increase the expenditure at all. I believe it will have the effect of reducing the expenditure.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It should for the litigants.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is possible. Very frequently the State is put to great expense in providing for the hearing of a case in a particular court, and this circumstance may render it necessary to bring the whole of the parties some distance away to attend that court.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Possibly to bring 100 niggers from the North.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: On the other hand, under this Bill we may establish a court at a place where the case can be heard with far less expenditure and trouble to the parties concerned, as well as to the State as a whole.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Whom do you propose to appoint as Commissioners?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Provision for that already exists. We now appoint Commissioners. In this case there will be less need to appoint Commissioners than there is at present. Under these conditions a Court of Session will be established in a certain definite division which will be defined under the Bill. It may consist of one or more magisterial districts, and if of one magisterial district there must be a resident magistrate in that district. That resident magistrate will be empowered under the Act to sit as chairman of the Court of Session. But if the case or cases warrant a judge of the Supreme Court sitting there, the judge may under a writ signed by the Attorney General sit alone.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Who is to judge whether the case warrants that being done?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Attorney General. At the present time the Attorney General is judge in much the same way, because in some instances here he declines to allow a case to be heard before a magistrate, or he decides that a litigant and witnesses shall not come to Perth. In such circumstances he appoints a Commissioner to hear the case. We shall be able to better meet the position on the establishment of Courts of Session. The Courts of Session will be debarred from hearing cases such as murder, treason, sedition, etc., except when a judge is presiding. In such cases it will not be a matter of discretion with the Attorney General; a judge will have to preside. That is very necessary. Trial in all cases will be by jury; Courts of Session will always sit with juries and with a magistrate as chairman except in the instances I have mentioned. The general method of trial will be practi-

cally the same as in the Supreme Court. There is provision in the Bill for the compilation of jury lists. It is provided that appeals from decisions of justices may be heard before a judge or a Commissioner sitting in a Court of Sessions in the district in which the decision has been given. That, of course, is also necessary. These are the principal provisions of the Bill. They do not materially alter the conditions which exist at present. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. T. Walker, debate adjourned.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

## BILL—NURSES REGISTRATION.

### Second Reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverley) [5.5] in moving the second reading said: The Bill is similar to the measure which reached this Chamber last session from the Legislative Council, but which was disallowed because it had been wrongly introduced in another place. In submitting the Bill I desire to pay a tribute to the splendid services rendered by the nurses in Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And outside.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, and those who left our shores and rendered such great service at the Front. We all know what it is to have the tender care of a nurse during a period of illness. It makes a very great difference, of course, to have careful attention of this description, and I must say from my experience—and I suppose it is the experience of most of us—that nurses make a great sacrifice. The nurses in the country districts especially are doing splendid work, and our thanks are due to them also for the sacrifices which they, too, make. The Bill I am asking the House to pass is one that only grants to them a very small privilege.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The regulations can make the privilege big.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The regulations will be similar to those of the A.T.N.A. There have been drawbacks in the training of nurses in the past owing to the want of uniformity. Under the Bill, there will be uniformity, and the method of examination will be fixed by regulation, and it will be practically similar to that in existence at the present time and which is used by the A.T.N.A. All that the Bill provides is for the regulation of nurses and the protection of their registration and their badge against use by unqualified persons. It extends also one small privilege, and that is preference of employment in public or Government hospitals. The Bill does not set up a monopoly or a close corporation. It does not prohibit any nurse

not registered from practising, that is, the nurse who is unable to qualify for registration under the Bill will not be prevented from practising. There are many nurses in private hospitals, and they are just as capable as the best of the registered nurses who probably would not be able to pass the examination. Therefore, the Bill is not setting up a monopoly. It provides an opening for all nurses to become registered under a proper system, and ultimately we shall be in the position to bring in a Bill which will not effect a hardship in any case in connection with registration.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Those who are in private hospitals will not be interfered with?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. The nurses at the present time are trained at the Perth and Fremantle hospitals and the Children's Hospital, as well as various Government hospitals, including those at Kalgoorlie and Wooroloo. The nurses trained at the Children's Hospital suffer from various disadvantages, because most of them are there practically continuously, and the experience they get of nursing in that institution is not sufficient to enable them to be registered, as in the case of a nurse who goes through a proper course of training as will be set out by the board. The board will consist of five members, with the Principal Medical Officer as Chairman. The other members will be, one medical practitioner and three nurses, and they will be appointed in the first year by the Governor. All subsequent appointments will be made for three years by the Governor on the recommendation of the registered nurses in the case of the medical practitioner and two of the nurses, and one nurse will be appointed by the Governor. The nomination, of course, will be as required by regulation. The members of the board on retirement will be eligible for re-appointment. Under the Bill provision is made whereby the board will have to keep a register showing the names of all duly qualified nurses and these will be published annually in the "Government Gazette." Before registration an applicant must be proved to be of good character and will require to have qualifications. It is set down in Clause 5 the persons who may be registered as nurses. Every nurse who attains the age of 21 years or who has been practising for three years in a hospital recognised by the board—

Mr. O'Loghlen: What does that mean?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: A hospital set down by the board.

Mr. O'Loghlen: I think you should stipulate the hospitals.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hospitals will be Kalgoorlie, Perth and Fremantle and others, at present.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Not Bunbury?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, if it is considered that it should be included.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Parliament had better set that down before the boards gets to work. You have no objection to that?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It can be set out by the board, with the approval of the Minister.

Mr. Gibson: It all depends on the number of beds.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Any person on attaining the age of 21, who has had not less than three years' training together, with systematic instruction in theoretical and practical instruction from the medical officer and the matron of a hospital, and who passes the prescribed examination, will be entitled to registration. There is also a provision which will entitle a person to registration on attaining the age of 21 and holding a certificate from an authority outside the State, recognised by the board.

Mr. Money: In addition to that, they must pass an examination in Western Australia.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, if the board is satisfied that the nurses' qualifications are satisfactory, there will be no necessity for an examination. Their certificates may be satisfactory to the board.

Mr. Money: The clause provides that they must pass such an examination as would be required in Western Australia.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Of course, that is what I am saying. The certificate held by the nurse will show what the examination has been, but she will not have to undergo another examination here if the certificate shows that the examination she passed was a satisfactory one.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why the necessity for this Bill at all? We have the Australian Trained Nurses' Association now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is no uniformity about it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is all bunkum.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They want a registration that will be recognised.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Australian Trained Nurses' Association is recognised.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I can assure the hon. member that there will be no hardship under this Bill any more than there is under the Australian Trained Nurses' Association.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is no need for it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member is not right there. The Bill does not create a monopoly, but it will provide a proper system of registration and the nurses who pass the examination will receive a certificate and a badge showing they have passed the necessary examination and have been registered.

Mrs. Cowan: I take it that those who have only had 10 or 12 months' training will have to take a further course in general nursing and subsequently become registered.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, they will have to pass the examination if they desire to go for it.

Mrs. Cowan: It will assist to safeguard against inefficiency.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, and it will show that the nurses have the necessary training.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There are a lot of efficient people who cannot pass examinations.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That may be so.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Some of the most efficient people in the world are too old to pass examinations.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Bill also provides for hospitals at which nurses will be able to receive their training. It does not matter whether the hospital is at Bunbury or any other country hospitals so long as the nurses have the qualification and pass the board, they will be able to practice. A certain period will have to be spent by the nurses at the Wooroloo sanatorium, which will be an essential part of their training. That is nearly always done at the present time. From there, they will be sent to Kalgoorlie or some other hospital to undergo a course of training which will be such as prescribed by regulations framed under the Act. A board of examiners will be appointed and all examinations will be conducted by the examiners; when the nurses are registered, they will then receive a certificate of registration and a distinctive badge as well, indicating that they are registered nurses. There is also a provision for a penalty whereby any person, who procures registration by fraudulent means, will be guilty of an offence. This, of course, is a necessary provision. Upon conviction, the name of the nurse concerned will be erased from the register. Any nurse who is proved to the satisfaction of the board to have been guilty of any grave misconduct will be liable to have her name erased from the register by order of the Governor in Council.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But she can still practice.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: She would be liable to a penalty if she practiced because she would be practicing under fraudulent conditions.

Mr. O'Loughlen: No, she would be entitled to practice as a private nurse.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is so.

Mr. O'Loughlen: She may also become a dental nurse.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: She would not be entitled to be registered. There is also provision that any person, who falsely pretends that she is a registered nurse or wears the uniform prescribed under the regulations, shall be guilty of an offence. Clause 13 provides the one privilege the nurses who come under the scope of the Bill will receive in comparison with other nurses, and that is preference of employment in public institutions or Government hospitals.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They will not rush that.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not know about that.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The nurses will go where they can get better pay.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is also provision made for appointing the board of examiners and for their remuneration to be fixed by regulation. Regulations will also be prescribed for the form of application, certificate of registration, fees to be paid by the candidates for examination and registration, uniform and badge to be worn by the registered nurses, and such other regulations as may be required. The Bill is a simple one and I am sorry to notice that the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) has taken exception to some of the provisions.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have not spoken yet.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There is not much in it in any case.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I trust the hon. member will help to pass the measure and give it a trial. It does not create a monopoly. There may be an odd nurse or two who should not be allowed to practice. I do not know of any but there are some private nurses who make one feel that they may not be quite efficient. There are some elderly nurses with a great deal of experience, with whom we do not desire to interfere, although they are not recognised by the Australian Trained Nurses' Association. We do not want to put anything in their way to prevent them continuing nursing.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Have you any statistics to show the number of registered nurses compared with the other nurses?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have not got it with me at present.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There is a register of the other nurses?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; the Australian Trained Nurses' Association keep a register. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.24]: The Bill has only been before hon. members for a few moments, but it is not one that requires very much consideration. In all its provisions, it merely asks that nurses be registered. If I mistake not, a register is kept of all nurses under the Australian Trained Nurses' Association at the present time. In these circumstances, Parliament is merely asked to appoint a board and to appoint officials and so on in order to go to the expense of getting a second list of nurses.

The Colonial Secretary: There will be no second list.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Then we are asked to define by regulations the nurses who are to be registered and what distinctive badge and uniform they shall wear. No person will be able to go about wearing a white collar and a pair of white cuffs unless she is registered under this Bill, if it becomes law.

The Colonial Secretary: Certainly not.

Mrs. Cowan: It means that the nurse cannot go out wearing the badge.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The member for West Perth has not read the Bill.

Mr. Sampson: The clause suggests what you say.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is quite clear.

Mr. Money: The clause leaves it open to doubt.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, if a nurse is not registered and she appears with a white collar and cuffs she is liable to a penalty. Hon. members know that the costume for a nurse has been handed down from past generations. They have made their present garb the uniform for their profession. I am surprised at this Bill. I should not be surprised at what the Medical Department do because they do not realise what the expenditure of money really means. The Bill is not honest.

The Colonial Secretary: In what way?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: On several occasions when I was in charge of the Medical Department, I was asked to introduce a Nurses Registration Bill, but in every instance they defined the terms in such a manner that it was impossible for country nurses or trainees in any country hospital except Kalgoorlie to become registered. If a nurse put in three years at one hospital or two years in another, because her family has removed from one place to another, she could not be registered.

The Colonial Secretary: The regulations will come before the House and they can be disagreed with by members.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister has provided in the Bill now before us conditions different from the ones I referred to and it is there provided that the conditions shall be as set out by the regulations. In my opinion this Bill is a dishonest one because it will have a tendency—

Mr. Davies: Who controls nurses at present?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Australian Trained Nurses' Association.

The Colonial Secretary: They have asked for this.

Mr. Latham: Why not have this as well?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: All this Bill seeks to do is to set up a register of nurses and permit us to say what badge and what uniform a registered nurse will wear. If other persons wear a similar costume, they will be liable to a penalty.

Mr. Troy: What value has a distinct uniform?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not know, but that is all the Bill provides. It puts all the power in the hands of the board.

Mr. O'Loughlen: When the nurses receive their certificates they will be no better off.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Their names will be registered, that is all, and they will also have a distinctive badge and uniform. If we pass this Bill, within 18 months or two years we will have a Bill brought before us to provide that no one can practice unless

registered. The present Bill is only one step in that direction.

Mr. Money: Parliament will deal with the matter then.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that. But Parliament under present conditions, should hesitate to pass legislation having for its object the setting up of a board with a secretary and other officials and spending money to run a concern like this, merely to register the name of nurses and say what they shall wear. It is a waste of money and nothing can come of it. There are other hospitals in the State outside of Perth, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, and Wooroloo where nurses can be trained. The member for Fremantle (Mr. Gibson) interjected—and he knows something about the question—that it all depended upon the number of beds.

Mr. Harrison: What is the number?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no number specified. In some of our smaller hospitals they find it necessary to bring in trainees to carry on the hospitals. I am as certain as I can be that young girls trained in a hospital such as Busselton, Jarnadup, or many of the hospitals in the timber country or on the goldfields, would never be registered under this measure, because the board would not recognise them.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes they would.

Mr. O'Loughlen: If they have the qualifications, they should be.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The board would not test the qualifications, but the service.

The Colonial Secretary: A girl after serving three years in any hospital, if she has the qualifications and can pass an examination, can be registered.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To show that my contention is correct, the board can grant certificates to any trainee who has served three years in any hospital or establishment recognised by the board. From my experience I am confident that the board who will control this matter, will never recognise any hospital outside of those at Perth, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie and Wooroloo.

Mr. Money: Who will appoint the board?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government. For years efforts have been made to get legislation for the registration of trained nurses. No doubt it would apply all right in the metropolitan area, but the great objection arises in regard to the country districts and the matter of trainees. It is impossible to get fair play in connection with this matter; yet the Minister has brought down this Bill asking us to authorise the appointment of a board and officials just to keep a register and to prescribe the class of uniform the girls shall wear. I hope the Bill will be treated in the manner it deserves.

The Minister for Mines: Silent contempt!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier, when giving his financial statement the other night, said it was necessary for the departments to recognise that they must practise economy. There is no department I know of more in need of this direction than the Health De-



partment, and in saying this I am not referring to hospitals. It is about time they were told that Parliament is in control.

The Colonial Secretary: You will get revenue from the measure instead of losing revenue.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government will not get sufficient to pay for the paper on which the names will be written, unless they want to prosecute persons for wrongly wearing white cuffs and collars. In no time a clerk will be appointed to look after this register. I know exactly how it will work out. To show the position that obtains in the Health Department, every local authority in this State must have a certificated health inspector, and there are about 16 health inspectors in the department holding no higher qualifications than the local inspectors, to see that the latter do their work. We are building up departments and gaining nothing from them. The Bill is unnecessary; it will cause needless expenditure; it will only result in the keeping of a register now being kept by the Trained Nurses' Association, and the only benefit will be the prescribing of the uniform which the nurses shall wear. I hope the Bill will be defeated.

Mr. DAVIES (Guildford) [5.35]: I welcome the introduction of this measure, which I consider is long overdue. I do not agree with the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) that we shall experience the difficulties he has foreshadowed. The board controlling the training of nurses is known as the A.T.N.A., and before a girl is recognised by the A.T.N.A. she must have been trained at a hospital recognised by the A.T.N.A.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We should recognise every hospital in the State.

Mr. DAVIES: They do recognise them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No they do not; that is the point.

Mr. DAVIES: This measure should be welcomed by this House. I have had some experience of the Perth Public Hospital Board. For many years Dr. Hope, the Chief Medical Officer, put up a fight to get the Perth Public Hospital recognised as the institution where nurses could be trained without the A.T.N.A. or any other union of nurses or doctors having a say as to where they should be trained. Before a nurse can be trained at the Perth Public Hospital, she has to be recognised by the A.T.N.A. Where is there any institution better able to train nurses to care for the sick than the Perth Public Hospital?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is not necessary for probationers to be recognised by the A.T.N.A.

Mr. DAVIES: Even if a girl is trained in the best hospital in the State, if she was not first recognised by the A.T.N.A., she has to go out after her probationary period unrecognised by the A.T.N.A.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you know the result of that? We had to send to England

for nurses, because we could not get them in Australia.

Mr. DAVIES: The result is that a girl unrecognised by the association has to go out into the country and be regarded as a blackleg.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is there one nurse practising now who has not been taken into the A.T.N.A.?

Mr. DAVIES: I cannot say.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I am informed that there is not. They take them in after three years.

Mr. DAVIES: The A.T.N.A. has done good work in this State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I admit that.

Mr. DAVIES: But a hospital like the Perth Public Hospital, whether recognised by the A.T.N.A. or not, should stand as one of the chief training institutions for general nurses.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They cannot train the lot there.

Mr. DAVIES: The fact remains that, before the board of management of the Perth Public Hospital can take on a probationer, she has to pass an examination before the A.T.N.A.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Before she can enter as a probationer?

Mr. DAVIES: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Then by God, you had better hand over the Perth Public Hospital. It is time you took control of it. No wonder you are spending £25,000 or £30,000 a year, if that is the game.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Under what statute is that insisted upon?

Mr. DAVIES: None, except that the A.T.N.A. is a close corporation. This Bill ought to be welcomed. I cannot understand the opposition of the member for North-East Fremantle.

Hon. T. Walker: Why welcomed?

Mr. DAVIES: Because the Government are recognised under this measure, instead of a body who have no legal standing.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The A.T.N.A. are running the Perth Public Hospital. We want a new committee there.

Mr. DAVIES: The A.T.N.A. are not running the hospital.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you said so just now.

Mr. DAVIES: We have to do this for the protection of the nurses who go through that institution. We could defy the A.T.N.A. We could say that we considered an applicant held the necessary qualifications and she could be subjected to examination by the medical men and the matron, but the trouble is that at the end of her training we might have to tell her to go, as she was not required on the staff of the hospital.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The A.T.N.A. have to say what girls you can take?

Mr. DAVIES: Such nurses, after completing their training, could go into hospitals not recognised as being up to the A.T.N.A. standard.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And this board will not recognise them!

Mr. DAVIES: Or they could undertake private nursing in the bush. I am not going to argue the matter further, except to appeal to members on this score. This is a simple measure and I think it will be welcomed by the people of Western Australia and will enhance the dignity of the nurses and give a wider field for the training of nurses in this State.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [5.41]: The member for Guildford (Mr. Davies) infers that the only value in the Bill is that it will give the nursing profession something like a legal standing which they do not at present possess. Trained nurses are desperately anxious for the passing of this Bill, believing that it will confer benefits on their profession which, as the member for North-East Fremantle has pointed out, are lacking at present.

The Colonial Secretary: Such legislation is recognised in the Eastern States.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There might be reciprocity in the case of nurses transferring from one State to another, but boiled down the only utility about this Bill is that trained nurses will get preference of employment, which is a valueless concession. It is a valueless concession, because every nurse to-day is anxious to undertake private nursing rather than go into a hospital, particularly the Perth Public Hospital. In the public hospitals the wages paid are not alluring enough to attract nurses. It will not be a very great boon to give them the preference of employment, though I agree with such a provision. If the Minister will accept one or two amendments in Committee, this Bill can be made a fairly good measure, but it is not likely to prove of much value to anyone. The nurses, however, are entitled to protection, though I do not think they will get it under this Bill. Some years ago, when a similar measure was before the House, I opposed it, because I was against the formation of these exclusive bodies or close corporations. However, this appears to be the accepted policy of the State. We have an Auctioneers Bill, a Land Agents Bill, an Architects Bill. We find all the different professions getting legislation for their particular groups. It is said that this gives a guarantee to the public who have to deal with these people. Seeing that Parliament has decided on this course, the nursing profession have unanswerable claims, because their members have spent a long probationary period on low wages and, having gained their qualifications by merit, are entitled to some little official standing, so that people engaging them will know that they are qualified. The only danger that I apprehend is giving the board power to prescribe what uniform is to be worn. This may operate detrimentally to a great many fine women engaged in nursing who are not registered, and who possibly never will be registered.

Mr. Latham: They should not be made to wear the uniform.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I intend to move an amendment to rectify this. The badge should be sufficient. The badge of the registered nurse is sufficient to distinguish her from a nurse who is not registered and who in the eyes of the public is not qualified, though perhaps she is just as highly qualified as one who has passed an examination.

Mr. Troy: Why the distinction if an unregistered nurse is qualified?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In some cases unregistered nurses may be as highly qualified as registered nurses. There are people in this State who are unable to pass examinations and yet in practical knowledge and experience are probably of greater ability than those who have passed examinations.

Mr. Teesdale: Quite so.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: We find instances of this among veterinary surgeons and midwives. Members know that two decades ago the registration of midwives was never suggested. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) knows that in the Clarence River district and in the Eastern States generally there was not a registered midwife to be found anywhere.

Mr. Teesdale: And we do not want them in the bush, either.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am not saying that it is not a good thing to have them registered. I am only pointing out that it often happens that a really practical person in any walk of life might be as capable of rendering good service as one who has passed an examination and thereby become qualified. For that reason there are to-day in the private hospitals of Perth certain nurses who are not registered. The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) has been in a private hospital where there was at most one registered nurse; yet I venture to say the attention which the hon. member received at that hospital was equal to any he could have received anywhere else. I am in favour of the Bill, subject to certain amendments. As regards the provision dealing with hospitals recognised by the board in the matter of registration of nurses, I would be prepared to support that clause if it were amended by the addition of such words as "or any hospital subsidised by the Government." The latter hospitals should be good enough. Take Yarloop hospital, for instance. If there is a nurse in that hospital practising for four years under a qualified doctor—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: So long as she could pass the qualifying examination, she should be entitled to registration.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: She would not be entitled to registration unless the Yarloop hospital was recognised by the board. The board may ignore the existence of certain hospitals.

The Minister for Mines: That is a matter to be settled by regulation.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes; but we know it is a very difficult matter to get a regulation

disallowed by Parliament once it has been passed.

The Minister for Mines: You know differently from that.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I know of only two instances in 14 years of regulations being disallowed.

The Minister for Mines: It has been done twice this session.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The weight of Ministerial influence against the review of regulations is enough to discourage anyone from attempting the task. I do not believe in giving the board power to determine these matters by regulation, if we can lay down in the measure itself certain defined functions for the board to discharge. Clause 6 provides that the board shall control the trained nurses, and the hospitals in which training is undertaken. I readily acknowledge that the Perth Public Hospital, in point of equipment, is in the premier position in this State, and that no other hospital in Western Australia is able to give probationers equal training. It is not practicable to give training to the same extent in a small hospital. But, since everyone cannot get into the Perth Public Hospital as a probationer, let the obtaining of the necessary training and the acquiring of the necessary knowledge be the passport to registration. We should not bar nurses from becoming registered, merely by reason of the fact that they have not been trained in the Perth Public Hospital. The nursing profession is hedged round with great and glorious traditions; it is, I believe, the finest profession on earth. The women who enter it are prepared to work out their lives in ministering to human suffering, and this without anything like adequate reward. Now, I understand there are 370 girls registered at the Perth Public Hospital waiting to be admitted as probationers.

Mr. Davies: No; not 100. As a matter of fact, the Perth Public Hospital board recently lowered the age for admission of probationers.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am glad that the position in that respect has improved. But the other private hospitals which are carried on in Western Australia, and which give tuition and training, are entitled to recognition by the board, equally with the Perth, Fremantle, Kalgoorlie, and Wooroloo hospitals. I admit that at other hospitals nurses would not enjoy the same opportunity of witnessing operations as at, for instance, the Perth Public Hospital. Nevertheless, nurses trained in other hospitals, such as I have mentioned, should be given a chance; and if the Bill is read a second time, I shall move in that direction. In connection with this measure I wish the Minister would furnish statistics of registered nurses; that is to say, nurses who have gone through their period of training, and have passed the examination, and have become registered.

The Minister for Mines: The Perth Public Hospital has sisters, and also nurses under them, who have never attended a case outside that hospital.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I believe three members of this Assembly are members of the Perth Public Hospital board. The fact that the nurses referred to have never attended a case outside the Perth Public Hospital seems to indicate a

lack of ambition on their part. I observe that the only penalty imposed by Clause 9 for misconduct by a nurse is the cancellation of her registration. That does not seem a very severe penalty, seeing that she can go on wearing her uniform and continue nursing as before. The cancellation of her registration does not debar her from practising her profession.

The Colonial Secretary: But she would not be able to practice as a registered nurse.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There must be anything from 500 to 1,000 nurses who, notwithstanding the passage of this measure, will still practice their profession without registration. If a nurse is guilty of misconduct, the worst that can happen to her is the removal of her name from the register.

Mr. Davies: She is liable to a fine of £20 if she continues to practise.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Only if she continues to practise as a registered nurse. Having the training, and the knowledge of nursing, a nurse can, even after being struck off the register, go into an institution or a hospital, or nurse privately, to her heart's content.

Mr. A. Thomson: You would not like to stop her from doing so, would you?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: If she has been guilty of serious misconduct she should be stopped.

Mr. Teesdale: Should not the patient in such a case be punished also?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The patient might no longer be alive. As regards Clause 11, I consider that the badge alone should be the passport to public recognition as a trained and registered nurse. The board should not be given power to punish respectable nurses who are not registered, but who are perfectly competent, merely for wearing the ordinary nurse's uniform. The uniforms of nearly all nurses are similar. The uniform is hallowed by custom. The board should not be empowered to inflict hardship on women who are earning their livelihood in the very honourable calling of sick nurse. Now, this measure is going to cost something to administer. True, the Minister in introducing the Bill said the opposite.

The Colonial Secretary: It is only a matter of registration.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The board of examiners will have to be paid.

The Colonial Secretary: The board will act in an honorary capacity.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Whenever a measure of this kind is introduced, we are told that the financial effect of it will be a balancing, that the imposts under the measure will pay for the cost of administration.

The Colonial Secretary: The cost will be very small, anyhow.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No. Public departments have a habit of growing. Public officials have a desire to build up departments, to gather additional clerks around them, and to blossom forth as heads of departments, with a resultant increase of dignity and glory. Practically, a Minister is compelled to approve of the growing expenditure in such circumstances. So it goes on throughout the various activities of government. The trouble is that by the passing of these Bills we are causing further duplication in our public services. That duplication is particularly noticeable in the Commonwealth

service, where the officials are absolutely callous with regard to the needs of the community. The figures of the Federal departments are positively scandalous as regards increase in the number of officials, several men being appointed to do work formerly done by one man. I do not say this particular measure is going to cost much to administer. If the Minister is prepared to listen to the amendments I have indicated, amendments which will to some extent curb the power of the board and allow a number of very deserving women now engaged in a noble calling to continue in that calling, I am prepared to support the Bill. But I object strongly to giving to any board, a body to be set up by the Executive Council, the power to frame regulations which it is very difficult afterwards to have altered or disallowed.

Mr. Davies: That power is at present possessed by a self-appointed board.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That is true; but during the last couple of years I have had considerable experience of regulations. In any case, this Bill is not a wonderful performance, not something to which the Colonial Secretary will be able to point in after years, saying to his sons, "This is what your dad piloted through Parliament." On the whole, it is not a very valuable sort of Bill. Really I am supporting the measure because it gives official standing to a body which needs such standing. I shall be compelled, however, to persist in the amendments which I have foreshadowed, and which are essential in order to curb the powers of the board. I hope that an amendment will be accepted eliminating all reference to the wearing of uniforms, and fixing the badge alone as a guarantee that the wearer has passed the necessary examinations and is available to the public as a duly qualified nurse.

Mr. GIBSON (Fremantle) [6:0]: In the interests of suffering humanity it is time we had a Bill on the lines provided by the Minister. There is no profession requiring equal knowledge in which some standard of qualification is more necessary than in that of the nurses.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How will this assist them?

Mr. GIBSON: It will assist them. The badge will be a guarantee that they have reached some satisfactory standard of qualification for their work. I hope the Minister will accept amendments on the lines suggested by the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loghlen). The board should not have the right to say that certain hospitals are the only hospitals from which nurses are to be furnished. Out in the back country girls serving as trainees in hospitals of from 20 to 25 beds have not been allowed to count the time spent there as time devoted to training. Yet the training received in those hospitals is equal possibly to that obtainable in metropolitan hospitals. The board should be compelled to recognise all subsidised hospitals as a proper training ground for nurses. The uniforms proposal is rather a ridiculous one. The badge itself should be a sufficient guarantee of qualification.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Pilbara) [6:2]: I intend to support the Bill. We are apt to become somewhat hysterical in regard to nurses and their . . . I remember that 50 years ago

we had no nurses. We lived through those days without any of these regulations. We are all the time regulating, regulating, regulating. As one of a large family reared in the bush, I ask what are we going to achieve as the result of all these regulations? The young husband of the present day has to work his soul case out to get a doctor and a nurse. I lived through it without either.

Mrs. Cowan: But a good many have died.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Our family did not. I remember that many years ago a woman just came in and helped her neighbour.

Mrs. Cowan: She still does so.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: At the present day the young husband has to pay for the doctor, and pay for the nurse, and over and above doctor and nurse he has to get in a woman to do the work.

Mr. J. Thomson: This has nothing to do with the Bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, it has to do with the registration of nurses. I say that if a nurse comes into a house she should be able to nurse and be able also to look after the house.

Mr. J. Thomson: And do the washing, perhaps.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: No, the old man can do the washing.

Mrs. Cowan: He would be out on washing day mostly.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: No, he would not.

The Minister for Mines: The member for West Perth is speaking from her own knowledge and experience.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Exactly. I was one of a family of nine born and reared without the assistance of either doctor or nurse. When it came to doing the washing, I suppose our old man did it or had to leave it undone. We are becoming too highly technical, and by our regulations employing huge numbers of people who could be doing more useful work. That some child should die because it has not had proper attention is worthy of consideration; but then we have to take the evidence of the member for West Perth and of Mrs. Rischbieth before the Education Commission, where they told us that we are breeding a lot of weaklings, and suggested that those weaklings, mental or physical, should be sterilised.

The Minister for Works: So they should.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Those who lived through as we lived through, did not require sterilising.

Mr. Teesdale: Why all this?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member must confine himself to the Bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: None of us required sterilising.

Mr. Munsie: It might have been better for you if you had.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Maybe.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This light discussion must cease.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I support the Bill and the amendment suggested by the member for Forrest. We are going too far in regard to these regulations and this registration of nurses, and the looking after of children, because in my experience if a child is born into the world with a fair constitution it will live through without any nurses.

Mr. CORBOY (Yilgarn) [6·9]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and negatived.

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [6·10]: I support the Bill because it is the earnest desire of different sections of trained nurses that it should be passed. The nurses are of such importance to the community that their wishes deserve every consideration. Women who take up nursing and who do such splendid self-sacrificing work are the best people to know what is required for their profession.

Hon. W. C. Angwin. This is only for their registration.

Mrs. COWAN: They are asking for registration. The sisters' subsection of the Returned Army Nurses are asking for the Bill. The Trained Nurses Association, which is the most powerful body of nurses in Australia, also are asking for it, and I think many of the untrained nurses desire it, those who have been practising for a long time and yet have never trained under any of the associations. They realise that if they pass this examination they can become trained nurses, recognised by a body which, perhaps, will take precedence of the A.T.N.A. by which those nurses are not recognised at the present time. The nurses ask us to say they hope the board will not set a standard lower than that of the A.T.N.A. They also ask that it shall be made illegal for midwifery nurses who have not had a general nurse's training to nurse any but midwifery cases. No person who has not had a general nurse's training can have any knowledge of more difficult cases, such as typhoid. I should be sorry to have a purely midwifery nurse engaged on a difficult typhoid case. All that is asked is that midwifery nurses shall not be allowed to take such cases. Of course, at all times there are likely to be instances where any of us might have to go to the rescue of other human beings.

Mr. Teesdale: Any motherly woman can deliver a child just as well as a certificated nurse.

Mrs. COWAN: Perhaps, in certain circumstances, but abnormal conditions are likely to arise. Some of us have had experience which the hon. member could never have, and so we appreciate trained help.

Mr. Teesdale: That may be. I have had 35 years experience of a bush district where some very good men have been brought into the world.

Mrs. COWAN: The fact of having trained nurses has nothing to do with the emergencies that will arise in the bush. At the present time we are training the right type of nurses to send out into country districts so that women may not be left to suffer in the dreadful way they have suffered in the past.

Mr. Lambert: And a lot of those nurses are nothing but cigarette-smoking hussies, who ought not to be allowed into any respectable home.

Mrs. COWAN: That may be so, but such cases are few.

*Sitting suspended from 6·15 to 7·30 p.m.*

Mrs. COWAN: There seems to be a certain amount of confusion in the minds of some hon. members as to the difference be-

tween nurses and trainees. The nurses they speak of in these hospitals are mostly pupil nurses and not nurses at all. In the Perth Public Hospital and other places there are pupil trainees for nursing and the women in charge of them, who are the staff, are the real nurses who have passed their full examination. This Bill in no way interferes with the trainees, because as soon as they have passed their examinations they would also be qualified nurses, and if they were wise they would register. Some remarks were made in regard to the sisters in the Perth Public Hospital and the staff there remaining so long in their positions so that no one else could get them. It is rather hard that we should not recognise the fact that the positions of matron and sisters in the good hospitals are sought after everywhere as the blue ribbons in the profession. It gives them a recognised status as nothing else does, and enables them to secure permanent work and to occupy a fixed position which they have earned by right. The more satisfactory they are in their positions the better is it for our hospitals, and the better are they able to turn out others to be satisfactory nurses. It seems to me that quite the wrong point of view is taken by some hon. members on that question, more particularly the Minister for Mines. He does not realise that these people have earned their positions, and have just as much right to occupy them as have the heads of Government departments. We had the suggestion from one hon. member that there should be no nurses at all. One's heart can only go out, as a woman and mother, in utmost sympathy for those women in the backblocks and elsewhere, who are not able to get the attention of other women in certain circumstances, and one's heart also goes out to those men and children who in cases of sickness cannot get the necessary trained care and help. The nurses ask that their profession shall be raised to a certain standard, and that this standard shall be recognised and that they shall be registered, and we should give their claims every consideration. There is a great difference between trained nurses and nurses who are not trained when it comes to a question of illness. There are many private hospitals in which the attention is unsatisfactory because there is not the best type of nurse there or the full complement of trained nurses, that we are obliged to have in our public hospitals to look after patients and the trainees as well. Numbers of women have died through lack of attention and numbers of men and children have also died in the backblocks for want of the care of experienced women.

Mr. Latham: Not so very many.

Mrs. COWAN: The number has been comparatively great.

The Minister for Agriculture: What has become of the bush nursing scheme?

Mrs. COWAN: That is going on. We hope to assist the Government hospitals by estab-

lishing hostels for women and children who come in for attention, and for men also who come in in cases of emergency when there is no room in the hospital. The object is to keep them in readiness to be passed on to the hospitals. That will afford great relief to women, especially to mothers.

The Minister for Agriculture: Is that to apply to the metropolitan area?

Mrs. COWAN: No. The object of the bush nursing scheme is to establish hostels in conjunction with Government hospitals as far as possible in every small backblock town in order that a satisfactory waiting-place may be created for mothers when they come in and where their children, while they are in hospital, will be looked after, and in cases of illness generally. The patients will then go to the hospital when the time arrives or when the hospital can take them. When they are sufficiently convalescent to come out of the hospital it may be possible to keep them in the hostel alongside the hospital and give them a fair chance of recovery before they go back to their farms. We are making an endeavour to begin by the establishment of one at Wyalatchem, but £900 a year will not go very far. In this matter Parliament and past Governments have been very much to blame because when money was available for all sorts of things none of it was devoted to this purpose.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Nurses have been subsidised in country districts for years.

Mrs. COWAN: Nurses were subsidised to such a limited degree that no woman could be expected to take on the work.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It was not because of that.

The Minister for Agriculture: What has become of the £25,000 donated by the Red Cross fund.

Mrs. COWAN: A sum of £15,000 was sent from the Red Cross fund. Perhaps the Minister will say to what purpose that given to the maternity hospital has been devoted and what has been done with it? The Government have had the money for 12 months, but not a stone or a brick has yet been laid with it. There was a sum of £10,000 for a maternity hospital, and £15,000 for a bush nursing scheme with which we are endeavouring to do the best that is possible.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Government have had nothing to do with it.

Mrs. COWAN: The Government received £10,000. Why has nothing been done with it?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member must confine herself to the Bill. This measure has nothing to do with the Red Cross.

Mrs. COWAN: The interjections have led me astray.

Mr. Lambert: Led you astray?

Mrs. COWAN: The day has gone by when we should seek to encourage the type of nurses known as Sarah Gamps. In more ways than one that type has done a considerable amount of harm. I am afraid it

has in some cases helped to deteriorate the children of the people that type looked after. What we want particularly in connection with this Bill is that we may know that there are qualified women ready and competent everywhere in the State to look after people and endeavour to prevent sickness and illness and provide the attention necessary in maternity cases, which is often enough one of the most serious forms of illness any woman can go through owing to puerperal trouble.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: This has nothing to do with maternity cases.

Mrs. COWAN: This will mean the registration more or less of all nurses.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, we have another Act dealing with maternity cases.

Mrs. COWAN: Most of the nurses look upon maternity as a branch of their profession which they must add to their other training. The best schools of medicine and nursing recognise that. Many nurses who have passed the public hospital examinations are continuing their training so that they may also possess the maternity certificate.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There are maternity certificates outside of that.

Mrs. COWAN: For nurses to be registered they must be fully qualified. Other nurses may be registered as only qualified for one branch of their profession.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Health Act provides for maternity cases.

Mrs. COWAN: I know that. These women can register as competent for everything, which is far more important.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Then they must register for maternity cases.

Mrs. COWAN: Exception has been taken to the payment of fees. Of course that will mean less cost to the country. Nurses are willing to pay fees just as others are willing to pay fees to belong to unions. Of course it is not to be expected that the Australian Trained Nurses' Association will ever be as strong as a union where fees are also charged. I do not object to trade unions charging a fee, but I do not see that there should be any objection to fees being paid in this instance. It is not wrong that this should be done. Training in small hospitals has been spoken of. It is not possible in some small hospitals where such a limited number of cases is taken in the year for a nurse to get the necessary training to enable her to become a properly trained nurse. It is far better that she should not be regarded as fully qualified unless she really is qualified. I know from personal experience and from the personal experience of other women what it means to have in the house a type of woman who is not properly qualified although she appears to be so, because she comes to the house dressed as a nurse. I remember a case of some friends of mine in which the nurse in a case of serious illness—a maternity

case—refused to wash the patient's hands and face for a fortnight much less touch any other part of her body, on the ground that it would be wrong to do so, and that a cold would immediately set in. That woman would be said to be a qualified nurse according to the point of view of some members who do not understand what a qualified nurse really is. I also know of a case where a nurse so called was brought in and was looked upon as a qualified person. It turned out that the contrary was the case. Most of her time was spent in drinking bottles of wine and throwing them into a neighbour's back yard. I have never heard of a properly trained nurse who would do that sort of thing. At any rate I know that it would, if such nurses were registered, be possible to approach the board of officials and have them de-registered. That would be a penalty that would go far towards preventing a recurrence of such a thing. Why is there any objection to the badge and the hospital dress?

Mr. O'Loughlin: There is no objection to the badge.

Mrs. COWAN: Many hospitals insist upon a definite uniform being worn. Why is it that members want to make it possible for outsiders to wear that particular dress? It is not necessary for a nurse to spend her time in a uniform any more than in wearing her badge. I fail to see why there should be so much anxiety to enable the unregistered nurses to wear both the uniform and the badge which rightly should belong to qualified people.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No one advocated it.

Mrs. COWAN: It certainly sounded like it. Members say there is not going to be compulsion about not wearing a badge or not wearing a uniform. It is not intended to force the nurses to wear the uniform and badge except when on duty. I cannot understand the objection.

Mr. Lambert: Would not the nurses be asked?

Mrs. COWAN: We want to protect the nurses who are practising now. They have asked for it, and the qualified nurses say they particularly wish it to be possible for these nurses now practising their profession who are non-members of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association to be registered within 12 months of the passing of the Act, without passing any examination.

Mr. Teesdale: Suppose one was capable in practice and yet not educationally capable: would you have that woman put out of her employment?

Mrs. COWAN: No, this will not do her out of her employment. If a woman is registered within a certain period it will enable her to go on practising her profession as before, and there will be no hardship cast upon her.

Mr. Teesdale: But if she cannot register because she has not the educational qualifi-

cations necessary to go through a lot of professional juggling?

Mrs. COWAN: Registration does not necessarily mean that she has to answer all those questions.

Mr. Teesdale: She has to pass an examination.

Mrs. COWAN: Are young women who are registered now as nurses not exempt by this measure? The qualified women wish it to be understood that they desire that no harm shall be done to the women of the type referred to by the member for Roebourne; these have done good work in the community. They wish to prevent that kind of thing going on indefinitely. As worded this Bill inflicts no hardship on such women, but only protects the qualified woman and enables the public to make their own choice. Therefore I cannot see how this Bill will inflict a hardship on anyone. I support it strongly for the reasons I have given and because the nurses have done such good work and built up a fine profession, and reduced the death rate of the community and given relief to suffering in a most unselfish manner.

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [7.48]: We are undoubtedly dealing with a very noble profession, but there are nurses and nurses practising at the present time. As a matter of fact the nursing profession has a right to reasonable protection, but I was rather struck with the horse sense displayed by the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) in his references to the desire at the present time to hedge around every calling with a board, some "ring water" preference, and then to be governed by a lot of needless regulations. We have here a Nurses Bill, and immediately underneath it on the Notice Paper we have an Architects Bill. Some of the architects here are not even fit to design an ordinary lean-to or a skillion, and yet—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is a reflection on the architects.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know that the hon. member has any right to usurp the functions of the Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member might confine his remarks to the Bill before the House.

Mr. LAMBERT: I believe the time has arrived when Parliament should show some resentment to the incessant clamouring on the part of all sections of the community to be created into some sort of "ring water" preference association.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: You mean "rose-water" preference.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, "rose-water." They desire to be protected by Parliament and to be governed by all sorts of exclusive regulations.

Mrs. Cowan: Trades unionists are protected; why should not the women and nurses be protected as well?

Mr. LAMBERT: There is no more analogy between the two than there is any semblance

of common sense in the interjection of the hon. member. The Bill will create what we may call an exclusive association of nurses. It will be created in the first place by people virtually of their own profession, and I will attempt to show that the medical profession will see to it that it is made as exclusive a body as possible. It will be seen by the personnel of the board of examiners that that board will be composed of practically medical practitioners, and they will see that no more nurses are admitted as registered nurses than they can possibly help. I think that Parliament would be well advised to call a halt in the case of all those people who are clamouring to create all kinds of boards to protect their own particular calling.

Mrs. Cowan: Why should not they have boards?

Mr. LAMBERT: They have an absolute right to form themselves into an association to promote their own particular or peculiar interests just as the hon. member stated a little while ago that trades unionists had a right to join a union.

Mrs. Cowan: And to register that union.

Mr. LAMBERT: I go further than the hon. member in my desire to see properly conducted unions registered. However, I need not dwell on that comparison. I can only say that if the nurses desire to form an association for their own protection, they have an absolute right, like every other section of the community, to do so. I have an open mind on the matter, but I am not prepared to support the second reading of the Bill as it is drafted. Nursing undoubtedly is a noble profession and one that deserves every possible protection, but it is not everyone who is qualified to nurse who can come to the metropolitan area and get that practical and theoretical knowledge prescribed by the Bill, and which will be prescribed again by regulation of the board.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Don't you think that the public should be protected?

Mr. LAMBERT: The public are protected now. If my friend required a nurse to-morrow morning, a wet nurse or otherwise, he would make all sorts of inquiries like I made when I was looking for a nurse. He would probably consult a doctor and ask him to make a recommendation.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: I might be in that state of health that I would not be able to pick out one.

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member will never be in such a state of health. A man engaging a nurse for any person will take every precaution, and after exhausting his common sense I do not know whether a badge will be any additional protection.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: It will go a long way towards it.

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member may think it is an additional protection. Parliament has a right to protect the public within proper limits, but I object to the clamouring of these people.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The public are not clamouring for this.

Mr. LAMBERT: The public are not clamouring for this Bill any more than the bottle-ohs, the bone-gatherers, or the dentists, or the builders and contractors are clamouring for legislation. It is certainly desired at the present time to hedge all these callings around, first with the imprint of Parliament, and then to create an exclusive body to prevent the entrance of anyone until such time as a person comes to the metropolitan area.

Mr. Latham: And secures training in the Perth hospital.

Mr. LAMBERT: All the fine women in this country who to-day are serving as nurses throughout the bush lands of this great continent are doing yeoman service. They cannot come to the Perth hospital to receive training in systematic and theoretical and practical nursing at the hands of the medical officer and the matron of the Perth hospital.

Mr. MacCallum Smith interjected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member must keep order; he will have his opportunity later.

Mr. LAMBERT: It would be better if the member for Roeborne interjected, for then he would drown the voice of the member for North Perth. At least I would be able to hear the interjection. There is too much of this centring around the metropolitan area. No wonder there are complaints on every hand that people are crowding into the populated centres. This is an inducement to young girls, who may probably desire to get a training in some of the district hospitals, to come to Perth. These girls may say that they will not be looked upon as qualified nurses unless they do so. Then, once we give a board such as that proposed to be established power to make regulations to govern matters of the description set out, we will find that preference will be centred in the metropolitan area. My friend the member for West Perth may shake her wise head, but I can assure her it would not be human nature if it were not so. If I were a young nurse and desired to become registered, I should make a big endeavour to get into one of the larger hospitals, where probably I would get not only a knowledge of nursing but probably also a knowledge of the board of examiners, which is a very essential thing in a lot of these matters. We find that the board of examiners of medical practitioners desire not only to invade this arena, but they are desirous of invading the dental profession and other professions.

The Colonial Secretary: The Act does not say that they will all be medical practitioners.

Mr. Munsie: It says two of them will be.

The Colonial Secretary: No.

Mr. LAMBERT: I was wrong in referring to the board. The board of examiners, to which I should have referred, will be appointed by the Executive Council on the re-



commendation of the board. I do not think the Minister would take it upon himself to appoint the board of examiners for that purpose. Parliament should not tolerate this board or any board whatever making regulations. The widest possible scope should be given to girls who desire to become trained nurses, particularly in the country districts. Unless there is some provision which will enable such girls to enter what I consider is a noble profession, I will vote against the second reading of the Bill. If the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) desires to see a higher standard set for the nursing profession, she can do so. It has been rightly pointed out that trades unionists and a lot of other people have endeavoured to do the same thing, but to ask Parliament to put its imprint upon them and make the nursing profession exclusive, while at the same time excluding many noble women who are doing yeoman work in the country districts to a greater extent than do those nurses in the metropolitan area, is going too far.

Mrs. Cowan: Quite a lot of those women in the country are trained nurses.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is so. It was opportune that the member for Forrest should point out the stupidity of regulations governing the wearing of uniforms. There are plenty of girls earning a good, honest living as nurses in dental institutions. For the sake of cleanliness and neatness, and I admit in some cases with a tinge of that vanity which is common to the sex, they desire to garb themselves in the trim and neat uniform of the trained nurse. These girls are certainly not trained nurses but are dental assistants.

Mrs. Cowan: Do you think they should wear the uniform of a properly recognised hospital?

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not know that any properly regulated hospital has the exclusive right to a uniform any more than the so-called gentlemen of to-day have to wear the frock coat and belltopper. I presume the member for West Perth would look upon a working man who wore a frock coat and a belltopper with disapproval.

Mrs. Cowan: No, I would not.

Mr. Angelo: As a matter of fact, the working man can best afford it nowadays.

Mr. LAMBERT: And most of them would look better in frock coats and belltoppers than the member for Gascoyne. On reflection, I think this is a matter that the Minister may see fit, if the Bill passes the second reading stage, to remedy in Committee. The very fact of allowing registered trained nurses to wear a badge would be sufficient for the purposes he has in view.

Mrs. Cowan: Would you not debar anyone else from wearing it?

Mr. LAMBERT: I would debar them from wearing the badge.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Any unauthorised person wearing the badge would be liable to prosecution under the Bill.

Mrs. Cowan: Do you object to them wearing the recognised garb of a hospital?

Mr. Marshall: You would debar the rest of the community from wearing that garb at all. You want to keep it for the one section of the community.

Mr. LAMBERT: As a matter of fact, if we go on at this rate we will have soon a flappers' association coming to the House and asking us to debar stupid old women from wearing short skirts and that sort of thing.

Mrs. Cowan: I will support them if they come to us for that.

Mr. LAMBERT: I do not think the functions of Parliament are such that they should be asked to deal with matters of this description. I believe that the member for West Perth will be convinced, on reflection, that this is quite an unnecessary provision. If the registered trained nurses have a badge, they can show it when necessary. The member for West Perth should remember that soldiers who returned from the war have the right to wear their badge, which is the indelible imprint of their service. In the circumstances, it will be giving the registered nurses quite sufficient if we give them the right to wear a distinctive badge. We will, perhaps, have an opportunity to remedy these defects in Committee and therefore one can reasonably support the second reading of the Bill. I made certain remarks, when the member for West Perth was speaking, which may be misconstrued. As a matter of fact there are nurses—and nurses. Some of them are the most noble of women. There are other nurses, and trained nurses at that, whose conduct I do not look upon with approval and I would not have them in my house, whether registered or not. I hope there will be no sentiment in a matter of this description; it is purely a business matter. The desire of Parliament should be to protect the nurses and public alike but it is only the function of Parliament to protect the public. If the nurses desire to protect themselves it is within their rights to form an association or union and then affiliate with the Trades Hall or some other institution and so protect themselves. It is not the true and legitimate function of Parliament to do that, but merely to protect the interests of the public. If we can do that within the four corners of this Bill, we will have done all that can reasonably be expected of us.

Mr. LATHAM (York) [8.8]: I feel somewhat like the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) for I think it is time the Government took a stand and refused to bring in regulations to control everything. Are things so bad at the present time that it is necessary to bring in Acts of Parliament to control all sorts of things? We have a Bill to register nurses, another to register architects, and so on, and I do not know where it will stop. I do not think it is the function of Parliament to deal with these matters.

Mr. Lambert: There was the Bill for the regulation of the land and estate agents as well.

Mr. LATHAM: Parliament can devote its time much better to the development of the State than in dealing with regulations of the nature I complain of, particularly where no trouble has been caused in the past. This Bill will necessitate the spending of money. To-day we are preaching economy. The best thing the Government could do would be to shelve the Bill instead of asking Parliament to agree to this measure and thus cause the spending of more money. It will mean the building up of staffs with inspectors and a hundred and one other necessities. To-day we should economise and I do not think that economy will be practised under such a Bill as this. For that reason I oppose the Bill. There are many provisions in the Bill which I will not deal with specifically, but I am opposed to a lot of them. I oppose the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. MONEY (Bunbury) [8.10]: We have heard a lot about the board controlling the registration of nurses during the discussion on the second reading of the Bill. We do not seem to have had an explanation as to how the board will be constituted and who will be appointed to it. It is set out that the board will be composed of five members and after the first 12 months three of the board will be nominated by the nurses. From that it will be seen that in a large measure, the trained nurses will have the control of the administration somewhat similar to the lines adopted at present under the Australian Trained Nurses' Association.

Mr. Troy: That is all that is necessary.

Mr. MONEY: I was somewhat interested in the references to the framing of regulations under such measures. When such measures are introduced we are told that it will not cost anything, or if it does, it will be very little. Our experience has shown that when the Government are concerned in the administration of measures, it means the expenditure of more money. We may get over that difficulty in this case, however, because it will be an easy matter when we come to Clause 12 to provide that the registration fees shall be sufficient to pay for the administration of this measure. If that is done, there will be no expense for the Government whatever, but the administration will be entirely at the expense of the trained nurses themselves.

Mr. Latham: I do not mind that.

Mr. MONEY: If we agree in Committee to do that, it will obviate the objection raised by the member for York (Mr. Latham). We would thus remove any liability from the Government. Regarding the registration of nurses, there may be instances where trained nurses are not all that they might be. Undoubtedly the nurses are a blessing to the people in the country. If we could only extend the nursing system throughout the country areas, and into the bush generally,

we would be doing a splendid service to the country and assisting in the development of the State. One of the greatest hardships and drawbacks to the development of our agricultural lands is that the women are fearful of living in the bush because they are deprived of the benefits of a doctor. In most instances there is not a sufficient population in these distant parts to provide a living for a doctor. We can have nurses in such districts, and in the majority of cases the help afforded by the trained nurses is more than that provided by the medical practitioners. For that reason, we should help the nurses who desire the assistance sought under this Bill. It gives Parliament control over them where Parliament formerly had no control. If that control can be secured without expense to the Government, we should give them the assistance the nurses ask. The least we can do is to give them that assistance owing to the beneficent work they are doing in the country.

Mr. SAMPSON (Swan) [8.15]: I agree with the member for Bunbury (Mr. Money) to a large extent, but it seems to me that by this Bill we might be giving the nurses more than they are asking for. It is quite conceivable that a very competent nurse might have been practising her profession for many years, but under this measure, it would not be possible for her to become a certificated nurse.

Mr. Money: Well, she is not now.

Mr. SAMPSON: But there will be a distinction, because others will be able to claim that they are certificated and will wear a special uniform. The nurse not having this distinction will be at a disadvantage. It is stated that unless a nurse has served a certain period at an establishment recognised by the board, she will not be qualified to receive a certificate. I can quite see that it is possible for this Bill to do an injustice to many thoroughly competent women.

The Colonial Secretary: In what way? You do not trust the board.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Simply because of not being trained in a recognised hospital.

Mr. SAMPSON: Such a nurse might be thoroughly qualified, but would still not be competent to receive a certificate, because she had not been trained in a hospital or training establishment recognised by the board. There are many hospitals, apart from those which have been mentioned, conducted on thoroughly sound lines. There are many hospitals where major operations are carried out and where nursing is practised in its highest and best form. Even in a comparatively small hospital, it would be competent for a woman to become a thoroughly qualified nurse. I admit that I feel very much as other speakers who have expressed themselves in regard to what has been described as the "rose-water," the preference which the establishment of this preserve would mean. I can see that in the very near future there will not be a trade or

profession in the State which is not hedged in with regulations, and it will be quite possible for grave injustice to be done. There is an injustice indicated in this Bill. The nurse to whom I have referred, having practised her profession in the country for many years, may perhaps find that she is not competent to receive a certificate, and under Clause 13 preference of employment in any public hospital, including the Hospital for the Insane, would be given to registered nurses. That would be very unfair to the unfortunate nurse who, however qualified she might be, had not served the period of years referred to in a training establishment or hospital recognised by the board.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Dr. Haynes turned out scores of nurses.

Mr. SAMPSON: I know that, and very highly qualified nurses they were. There is no need at this stage to say anything concerning the nurses. Anyone speaking honestly and truthfully must admit that they are the most—

Mr. Latham: Lovable.

Mr. SAMPSON: I thank the hon. member—the most lovable, thorough, able, devoted and noble body of women one could possibly meet. I regret that the member for Forrest is not in his seat at present, because I marvel that he, having recently been an inmate of a hospital, continues to be a single man.

Mrs. Cowan: Hear, hear!

Mr. Money: He is going to support the Bill.

Mr. TROY (Mount Magnet) [8.19]: I oppose the Bill, not because I do not agree with all that has been said regarding the nursing profession and the ability, character, self-sacrifice, and unselfish life led by the nurses, but because I object to the tendency of this Parliament and of the last Parliament to introduce measures giving special rights and privileges to certain sections of the community. This is an error into which we are falling rapidly. We have Bills for the registration of dentists, architects and nurses, in fact, for almost every profession in the land, and for all those groups of workers who call theirs a profession and who ask for special privileges.

Mr. Mann: You support preference to unionists.

Mr. TROY: There is no analogy. There is nothing to prevent the nurses of this country from registering as a union or association, and having the same advantages as other citizens under the existing laws. The laws give the nurses the right to band together as an organisation to register and secure under the law the same advantages that are available to any other body of persons. I can see that a lot of evil will arise out of this registration and the giving of special privileges. I disagree with the remarks of the member for Bunbury (Mr. Money). He said that a great many womenfolk would not go out into the country because they were afraid

they would not receive proper nursing attention. The best of our women who have gone out into the back country have never given a thought to that. It is the weakling who wants to remain in the city who makes an excuse of that kind. My wife went out into the bush and never gave a thought to the question of nursing. Our mothers who reared 10 or 12 children went away into the bush, and they were content with the services of a midwife who had received no special training. I have no doubt that midwives displayed as much ability in their calling as nurses at the present time. I have no doubt, too, that they were more unselfish than the nurses of the present day. Take a nurse who goes into the working man's home. The midwife of former days had to take charge, look after the children and do the cooking. She considered the circumstances of the home. But nurses nowadays will not do that; they have to be waited upon. Many an unfortunate man has complained that, in addition to paying the high salary to a nurse, he has had to get special assistance for the nurse. I do not object to this; I do not object to the nurses enjoying the same consideration as any other member of the community. There will be a tendency on the part of this board comprising two doctors and three nurses to make the examination so difficult as to reduce the number of persons who will become qualified. I object to this Parliament giving any body of people the right to control a profession whereby they can make the examination so difficult that the needs of the country will not be met. A lot of legal practitioners are not more qualified to practise law than ordinary men who are not lawyers, and are not endowed with the qualities to make successful legal men, but they have passed an examination. Take the American system. If in America the laws were similar to those of Australia and England, men like Abraham Lincoln could never have become lawyers. Because it is permissible in America for any man to appear before the court and by his capacity to argue and his knowledge of the law qualify for the profession, many men by their own natural ability have won their way to the fore. In Australia there are lots of men who have no special qualifications save that they have passed an examination. I do not deny the unselfishness of nurses; I have had experience of it, but I do object to Parliament appointing a board with full power to restrict the profession to a limited number so that they may be able to exact what fees they like.

Mr. Money: Then you would do away with the engine-drivers' certificates?

Mr. TROY: I would not.

Mr. Money: On your argument you would.

Mr. TROY: There is no question of Parliament giving engine-drivers special consideration.

Mr. Money: It is the same principle.

Mr. TROY: Not at all. Nurses already have to pass an examination.

Mrs. Cowan: Not necessarily.

Mr. TROY: Otherwise they are not recognised by the Nurses' Association. The hon. member knows that full well. If a young lady seeks to enter the Perth Public Hospital she must first pass the examination set by the Nurses' Association; then she must undergo a course of training and before she can secure an appointment in any hospital, she must have the rubber stamp of that particular organisation. This is just what occurs in the case of engine-drivers, but they do not enjoy any special legislation. This is the reason why I oppose the Bill. I see in it a very grave danger to the community. There is a tendency on the part of Parliament to create special privileges for various sections of the community, and instead of these people entering by merit and being compelled to go to the Arbitration Court, the same as any other persons in the community, they will be able to restrict their membership so that the people in the back country will not be able to get the service to which they are entitled. The member for Bunbury says that this Bill will help the people in the back country. It will do no such thing. If the nurses do go to the back country, they will ask such rates and conditions that the unfortunate people out back will be unable to meet them. I have no objection to nurses receiving the highest consideration under the existing laws, but I do object to them or anyone else receiving special consideration by statute, by which they can set up a close corporation to the disadvantage of other sections of the community.

Mr. A. THOMSON (Katanning) [8.28]: I support the second reading because I consider the Bill is in the interests of humanity. We have heard the statement by the member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) that he does not consider the nurses will go into the back blocks. What opportunity is going to be provided for nurses to learn their profession in the back blocks unless it be in the various public hospitals supported by the Government? If a man has to decide between engaging the services of a duly qualified nurse as against one who does not hold the certificate, I am sure he would, in nine cases out of ten, decide in favour of the trained nurse who holds the badge of the association. Even in an ordinary business, the choice between the qualified labourer and an unqualified labourer is easily made—and that distinction exists between labourers. There is nothing in this Bill to prevent the nurses who have done excellent work in the back blocks from continuing to practice their profession. The only difference will be that they will not be registered nurses. No hardship will be inflicted. The passing of the measure will simply mean that the great bulk of those attending our sick in the bush and elsewhere will be qualified and certificated nurses. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) has stated, quite truly, that it is difficult to get nurses to go out into the country districts.

But my reply is that if we train a sufficient number of nurses, some of them will be compelled to go into the back blocks.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But the Bill will tend to limit the number of training institutions, and so you will not get the additional nurses.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I do not agree with the hon. member. Taking the whole of the public hospitals throughout the State—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Put those words into the Bill; they are not in the Bill.

Mr. A. THOMSON: If the Bill is not expressed in that way, I am prepared to support the necessary amendment. I know that some probationers are now being trained in country hospitals. I endorse the observation of the member for Bunbury (Mr. Money) that the administration of the measure should be self-supporting. The measure should involve no drafts on the public revenue. The registration fees should meet all the costs. A provision to that effect might be included in the Bill. My reading of the measure does not disclose to me any provision which will enable the board to restrict the number of registered nurses. The member for Mt. Magnet is mistaken in that respect. Any nurse who has had the prescribed training can demand to be examined; and if she passes the examination, she must be registered.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is all right in theory.

Mr. A. THOMSON: I am prepared to trust the board to do justice by their fellow citizens, and I believe that the enactment of this Bill will result in the saving of many valuable lives.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverly—in reply) [8.36]: I am rather surprised at the exception which various hon. members have taken to the Bill, and I regret that they have compared this measure with such measures as the Dentists Bill and the Architects Bill. After all said and done, it is only right that we should have some method whereby we can be assured that nurses are competent, seeing that the lives of people frequently rest in the hands of nurses. The medical man, no matter how well qualified he may be, must largely trust to the nurse, especially in a critical case. The medical man cannot always be at the bedside; therefore he must trust the nurse. If only for that one reason, the nurse should be thoroughly qualified and capable of carrying out the doctor's instructions from A to Z. One of the main points of objection has related to the hospitals which are to be recognised by the board. It has been argued that if this Bill passes, only a very few hospitals will be able to train probationers. But the hospitals at which probationers can be trained will be a matter for the board to decide, and the nurses themselves will elect two members of the board. Only one nurse will be appointed to the board by the Governor in Council.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have you read the files on this subject?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They show that my statements on this Bill are correct.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I understand that the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) intends to move certain amendments in Committee; and I suggest that one of the provisions referring to registration might be amended so that any nurse coming from any hospital in the State shall be entitled to registration on passing the examination. One of those provisions might be amended by the deletion of the words "recognised by the board"; then any nurse who has had three years' training in any hospital in the State can become registered upon passing the examination. In the matter of the uniform I am glad that hon. members take no exception to the proposed badge. In country districts it has never been possible to know whether a nurse was qualified or not. If anybody falls sick in my house, for instance, and I want a nurse, I rely upon the doctor to get me one. He wires to Perth for a nurse, and I take her. But there is nothing to prove to me whether or not she is a qualified nurse. If this Bill passes, then in the case of a nurse wearing the badge I know that she is a qualified nurse; and if she does not wear the badge, I know that she is not a qualified nurse. Any person wearing the badge without being registered, renders herself subject to a penalty. As to the uniform itself, the proposed distinction is one of colour. As it is now, every nurse, whether a midwifery nurse or a general nurse or any description of nurse, wears practically the same uniform. The Bill proposes a clear distinction in the matter of colour of uniforms. However, I shall not stand out for that provision; if hon. members desire it to be struck out, let it be deleted. As regards cost of administration of the measure, the board will be an honorary board, receiving no remuneration.

Mr. Troy: Not for the present.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Remuneration is provided for a board of examiners only.

Mr. Troy: Where will the examinations be held?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Probably in Perth. They may be held elsewhere as well, if that is found necessary. Possibly the board might consider it desirable to go to Bunbury and hold an examination there.

Mr. Troy: Who will bear the travelling expenses then? The State?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes; under the measure the State will pay. But I am pointing out that it is only the board of examiners who will be paid. At all events, nearly all examinations are held in Perth; and it is reasonable to assume that

this particular examination will be held in Perth. Moreover, it will be held only periodically; and the cost involved should be very small. The fees are to be paid into Consolidated Revenue, and Parliament has to agree to the payment of any amounts for the purposes of the measure.

Mr. Troy: You know very well that Parliament has no choice in the matter; the amounts simply appear on the Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the hon. member desires that there should be some protection in that respect, I shall offer no objection to a clause providing it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I do not see how that would work.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am not a lawyer, and cannot give a legal opinion on the point. The amount of the fees could be fixed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Queensland Act fixes the amount of the fees.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I fear, however, that fixing the fees would involve making an error on the right side, making sure to fix them high enough to cover the expenditure. It has been asserted that the effect of this measure will be to create a monopoly, or close corporation of nurses.

Mr. Troy: That is the point.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Such cannot be the effect. It is said, however, that only very few nurses will be allowed to secure certification and to practise. Let me tell the House again that this Bill contains nothing to prevent any nurse from going as a probation nurse into a private hospital, or any other hospital, and becoming qualified there, and subsequently practising as a nurse—just the same as is done to-day. The Bill imposes no restriction whatever in that respect.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Under the Bill such probationers could not go up for examination.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Certainly. They would be able to go up for examination.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No; they would not be able to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If they pass the examination, they become qualified nurses. That is the position.

Mr. Mann: Suppose a nurse serves three years in the Broome hospital, would you agree to the resident medical officer there taking the place of the board of examiners?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, because he is only one man. In all professions the examinations are conducted by a board. Moreover, no nurse is going to remain in Broome for life, or even for three years.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Under the Bill no person can go up for examination unless trained in a hospital approved by the board.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hospital must be recognised by the board. If the words are deleted, it will not matter which hospital the nurse comes from, so long as she passes the examination. I hope hon. members will support the Bill, because it will give nurses passing from Western Australia to the Eastern States or elsewhere due recognition as registered nurses, a privilege which they do not at present enjoy.

Hon. T. Walker: It will not affect their standing in any other State.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If a nurse qualifies here and produces her certificate over there, she will not have to undergo another examination.

Hon. T. Walker: You cannot say that.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, if she has duly qualified, I think they will recognise the certificate.

Hon. T. Walker: They all have their special boards and special qualifications.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is right, but if her certificate is accepted she will be recognised as a qualified nurse. Provision is made in the Bill regarding any nurse coming to this State, that she must produce her certificate before the local board, and if qualified she will be registered. The Bill is a good one and is similar to the Bill which was approved by another place last year.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Angelo in the Chair; the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Interpretation:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That in line 2 of Subclause 5 "and in the case of a medical practitioner" be struck out.

A board of five is provided for. The Nurses' Association is to elect three out of the five, leaving the Government to appoint only two. Those outside the association, who want to see fair play in regard to the examination papers, will not get full representation. I ask that the Nurses' Association be given two representatives and that the Government appoint the other three.

Progress reported.

## BILL—ARCHITECTS.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [8.55] in moving the second reading said: A similar measure introduced last session met with considerable opposition. The Bill has been in-

troduced in the interests of one of the foremost professions in the world, and it has been drafted with great care. As I have said, last session's measure met with considerable opposition, and in the end was withdrawn. The Bill before hon. members has been re-drafted in an endeavour to produce a Bill which will meet the aspirations of the profession and at the same time fully safeguard the interests of the public. Still, it is possible that the Bill is capable of improvement, and so I shall welcome debate on it. All that is desired is that the Bill shall be made absolutely fair. The Bill contemplates the appointment by the Government of a provisional board which for six months will do all things necessary until the establishment of the Architects' Board of Western Australia, three of whom shall be appointed from time to time by the Governor, while six shall be elected by the registered architects of the State. The first election will take place six months after the commencement of the Act, and provision is made for annual retirements, so that the members of the board will have to justify themselves to their electors or make room for more suitable men. Otherwise they will be put out. There are of course the usual provisions for the appointment of permanent officers in connection with the board and also for the acquisition of land and property so that they can have a domicile in which to transact their business. The board will have certain powers to conduct examinations and the officers will be protected from liability in the carrying out of the instructions of the board. A register has to be established upon which will be entered all those entitled to registration. Applicants for registration will be treated liberally, arrangements being made for those who have been practising as architects in this State for some time previously to have their experience recognised by being registered. Provision is made also that engineers who have had a course of training in their own profession and would naturally have to carry out work very similar to that of an architect will be competent to be registered if they so desire. The provisions for the applications for registration appear to be fairly liberal. If anyone is disappointed at not being registered, or thinks he has just cause for complaint against a decision of the board, he may appeal to the Supreme Court and, after satisfying the court, the board will be directed that he be registered. Provision is made for the payment of subscription fees which the architects and not the Government will have to find. There is also provision for the cancellation of registration, if it is proved that there has been fraud or misrepresentation in order to obtain registration or if an architect is convicted of any crime, misdemeanor or conduct rendering him unfit to put the title of architect against his name. I refer members to Clause 23, with which I am very much struck. It contains

a number of provisions laying down distinctly that those practising this profession shall be of decent character and honest men, and in the case of any failure in that respect, the board will have the right to institute an inquiry and deal with the offender. In this State there have been many instances of people being able to carry on a business by a qualified deputy—I was going to say a profession, but my education is not sufficiently well grounded to enable me nowadays to distinguish between what is a profession and what is a trade—anyhow, I have known many such people in the last 20 years who have put themselves up as professional men and who, to use a term in my own business, hardly know the business end of a pick. However, they managed to get through by making use of someone possessed of qualifications and who perhaps was under a cloud or unfortunate in some respect or other, sucking his brains, and taking care that nearly all the profits went into their own pockets. There is a provision to prevent that and also to prevent touting like racecourse touts for business, sharing commissions and palm oil of which there has been considerable talk, though I do not know whether there has been much practised. Evidently the architects have felt that it was necessary to show members of this House and the public generally that they would not countenance or condone any shady business in connection with their profession.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But when they go to the court they do not give a man an opportunity to set up his defence. The court has to accept the findings of the board as facts.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: If the board have made inquiry and found the person guilty of misconduct, they can apply to the Supreme Court for his suspension, but no Supreme Court would entertain an application from the board without giving the accused an opportunity to appear in his own defence. I am satisfied that the board for their own sake would never be likely, in dealing with a case of this kind, to permit themselves to be swayed by bias or personal spite, but would judge strictly on the facts before them. If the Supreme Court gave a verdict against them which had the effect of showing that something unfair or unjust had been done, their names would become so absolutely putrid with the people with whom they had to deal that they would, from very shame, resign from the position.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not you think the judge of the Supreme Court could weigh the evidence better by taking it himself than by taking it from the board?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The board could make inquiries.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A man should have an opportunity to put his own case before the judge.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The board consists of qualified men who could

make an inquiry and get the facts into concrete form for the judge to deal with. This would be far better than having the case dragging on in the court day after day and running the accused into costs which he perhaps could ill-afford, whereas the appearance of the accused before the board would simply cost him his own time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Even a barrister is permitted to defend himself.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This Bill should not be passed unless the accused has the right to defend himself.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is what I say.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: This Bill will impose upon the board the duty of annually appointing a committee to undertake the necessary arrangements to provide architectural education and conduct examinations so that students shall have an opportunity of being grounded in their profession and becoming qualified to succeed those who are now carrying on. The board will hold meetings and certain people can vote. Possibly members will think that an addendum should be made to this clause stating whether financial and unfinancial members may vote, or financial members only. According to the Bill any member can vote provided he is registered. Clause 30 deals with by-laws and states the purposes for which they can be made. No by-law, repeal or alteration can have effect unless and until confirmed by the Governor and published in the "Gazette," showing that in this direction due care will be exercised.

Hon. W. Angwin: I suppose they will be subject to the will of Parliament.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Personally, I think they should be laid on the Table of the House. There is a clause setting out that unregistered persons are not to practise as architects. Members who were in the House last session will remember it was contended that there were quite a number of persons capable of erecting a building just as well as an architect. It is a good thing for humanity that there exist in the community men with a natural genius for certain work. There are also men who think they have a natural genius for certain work and who in attempting to carry out the work make mistakes. Members no doubt have had experience of houses built by handy men who could draw a plan, and of subsequent trouble and collapse.

Mrs. Cowan: And some the other way.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, there is an instance in my knowledge within the last six months in connection with some public buildings. I am assured by the Crown Law Department that there is nothing in this measure to prevent such a man from carrying on as before. The only thing is that he will be prevented from styling himself an architect.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is what the clause says.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: He could still draw plans and erect houses, but he must

not hold himself up as being a duly registered and experienced architect. He could call himself "handy man," "builder," "commonsense," anything he liked except an architect. The term architect carries with it, in the view of those trying to fix this board, the necessity for a wider scope of education and training than falls to the lot of the average handy man who can merely draw a plan and erect a cottage or small building. An architect should be prepared to build not only a four-roomed cottage with a skillion, but to build any kind of structure that is required, such as a Parliament House. If a man has to design a building like Parliament House he must have a very considerable amount of education to enable him to so arrange the various portions of the building that it will all be perfectly safe for those who may occupy it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Especially the roof.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Seeing that I am dealing with Parliament House, I might repeat what I have already said, that the roof of the Legislative Council showed signs last session of giving way. The danger was seen in time and the defect has been remedied. The roof was designed to carry galvanised iron, but the aesthetic taste of an influential person caused tiles to be placed upon the roof instead of iron. Whoever was responsible for the drawing of the architect's plans at the Public Works should have had more backbone than to have allowed this. The pitch of the roof was not designed for tiles, and the weight of the tiles nearly resulted in the complete destruction of the roof. This only shows how dangerous it is for a man to interfere in matters for which he has had insufficient training. One might as well in a case of severe sickness call in any Dick, Tom, or Harry to prescribe for him. A medical man has to be properly trained to carry out his duties and we naturally go to him, and we are great fools if we do not follow his advice.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Most people go in for some patent medicine.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There is nothing in the Bill to prevent any person from designing or superintending the erection of any building. I do not think that is a necessary provision, but it was put in because there was a song made about the matter last session.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No one was able to do that under the Bill introduced last session.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There is a penal clause in the Bill in connection with falsifying the register and making false impersonation, and so on. There is also a clause dealing with the expenses of the board which have to be met out of the fees. There is nothing that I have detected in the Bill which will make any call upon the Consolidated Revenue of the State. If, with the blessing of Providence, and the opening of the purse strings of those who control the money supplies of the world, we are able to control a fair amount of loan money directly, there will possibly be a chance

of members of this profession coming into competition for public works. As far as the schedules are concerned, No. 1 deals with the election of members and No. 2 with the conduct of the business of the board. The Bill has been drawn on fair lines. I hope members will go through it carefully and will approach it with a desire to improve it. Any criticism they level at it should be levelled at it with the endeavour to remedy any of the defects which they may notice in it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We will try to find out the weak spots.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, and do as I had to do with the roof of the Legislative Council, strengthen it and make it so that it can do the work expected of it. This profession has a right to protection. I am a great believer in these professions, which so much concern human life and limb, being placed on a proper footing. We should take all reasonable precaution to see that this profession not only carries out its duties to those for whom we are responsible, but that it is encouraged and recognised in the way it should be. If we do give this profession a certain amount of privilege in connection with its work, the responsibility is cast upon those concerned to see that its members are kept in order, and that they do nothing that is not consonant with the reputation which the profession has already enjoyed in the years that have passed. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, debate adjourned.

## BILL—CORONERS ACT AMENDMENT.

Second reading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [9-21] in moving the second reading said: This Bill came from the Legislative Council. It requires but few words of mine by way of introduction, as it only contains five clauses. These include the usual short title clause and also a provision that copies of the Bill shall be printed with the principal Act, thus leaving only three clauses which have anything to do with amending the existing law, that is the Act passed last session. Another place passed the measure without discussion either on the second reading or in Committee, although it is a Chamber which stands against hasty legislation. There is little or nothing in the Bill. First of all there is a provision that where the words "Attorney General" appear in the Act we shall in future read, when such office is vacant, the Minister for Justice, so as to enable the person who is acting in the Ministerial capacity of Minister for Justice to take any action which may be necessary under the principal Act as if he were the Attorney General. Last session the Bill made provision, as far as practicable, to do away with justices being called upon to act as coroners. That was done largely in order to follow the practice operating in England and some of the other States. The conditions here and there, however, are very different. We have already found, after less than 12 months, that it is inconvenient in cases of sudden death in a remote locality, and that it is not a simple



matter to get others than a justice of the peace to act as coroner. We are, therefore, amending the legislation by providing that a justice of the peace may act and also providing that the resident magistrate may issue instructions or directions to a justice of the peace to so act, in lieu of waiting until such time as the Attorney General, or the Minister for Justice in this case, has under his hand given permission to a justice of the peace to so act. It is not intended that this should be the general practice. Where it is convenient and practicable the existing law will continue to operate in the direction of providing that a person of some qualification shall act as coroner at a coroner's inquest. The existing Act also provides that when a death happens in a public hospital or prison no medical officer who receives a salary to attend such hospital or prison shall be entitled to remuneration for conducting a post mortem examination. Doctors have refused to act in this capacity unless they were paid. The result is that the State is not only put to the inconvenience but the extra expense of getting an officer somewhere else and paying an extra fee for the examination. We are amending this by providing that the person who is already receiving a part fee for attending at any public hospital or prison may receive half the fee which would otherwise be paid to a medical officer for the purpose of conducting post mortem examinations. That is the full purport of the measure and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### In Committee.

Mr. Munsie in the Chair; the Minister for Mines in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of Section 5 :

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN : When the Act was passed last session the Government impressed upon members the advisability of having properly qualified coroners to sit in these cases. Justices could not take a case without the consent and authority of the Attorney General. It now appears that the Government are departing from that principle and leaving the matter almost as it was before. This Bill will mean that an inquest in almost every case will be taken by a justice. There have been many complaints under the old system because resident magistrates generally put the duty upon justices. If this clause is passed any justice can hold a coroner's inquest at the request of the resident magistrate. Thus, the old position is about to be reverted to. In the metropolitan area some justices have sat almost continuously as coroners—a fact which has been very properly criticised.

Mr. Teesdale : Is any particular ability required to fill the office of coroner ?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN : Last session it was argued here that a properly trained man should deal with certain cases that come before coroners' courts. Most of the cases are, no doubt, of a trivial nature. The clause represents a retrograde step, though its object is economy.

The MINISTER FOR MINES : I admit at once that the clause proposes to revert in some degree to the old principle. But that is not the general intention. Great expense has been entailed on the State by the existing law, without any corresponding advantage. It is considered that the question of whether a justice should sit as coroner in any particular case may safely be left to the discretion of the resident magistrate. We have had justices of the peace in Western Australia who have done little except sit in the coroner's court. The late Mr. Collett, whose sudden death is greatly deplored, acted for many years as a coroner in the city of Perth. He was a very capable man, and did a very large amount of coronial work in an entirely honorary capacity. The Crown Law Department will miss him exceedingly. The Minister for Justice has asked me to say how greatly he and the officers of his department regret Mr. Collett's death. In permitting a resident magistrate to elect a justice to act as coroner, we shall not be going beyond what is reasonable.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN : Let the resident magistrate do the work.

The MINISTER FOR MINES : Some magisterial districts are so large that the residents of the outlying portions never see their resident magistrate. The general principle of last session's measure will be retained under this clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Amendment of Section 41 :

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN : I fail to see the necessity for the clause, which should be negatived. Section 41 provides that no remuneration shall be paid to the salaried medical officer of a public hospital or a prison for attending court as a witness. I admit that in the back blocks it may occasionally be difficult for a doctor to attend court, but the medical officer of a hospital usually resides close to the hospital. Possibly there ought to be a provision that when a salaried medical officer has to travel any considerable distance for the purpose of attending court, he shall be paid.

The MINISTER FOR MINES : I am advised that the question of payment of fees to medical men for attending court as witnesses has not arisen. The question that has arisen is that of payment for holding post mortem examinations. In effect, the clause refers only to partly paid medical officers—subsidised medical officers receiving possibly only small fees for attending a hospital and for accepting the obligation of attending indigent patients free. The fee for holding the post mortem examination will not be paid unless the coroner directs that such examination shall be made by the salaried medical officer. For the purposes of the clause it would be difficult to distinguish between fully paid medical officers, and medical officers who are only partly paid. The amount of the fee, or half fee, involved is not large. The refusal to pay the half fee to the partly paid officer will mean calling in an outside medical man to conduct the post mortem examination and paying him the full fee for doing so. In the case of a sudden death occurring in a hospital or in a prison, the resident magistrate presumably would not direct the resident medical officer of the hospital or prison to conduct the post

mortem examination. It is only in cases in other parts of the State where it is intended that we shall pay half the fees to doctors who are partly paid by the State to attend gaols and hospitals. It is proposed to do that in cases where the post mortem is ordered by the coroner. It will prove to be a great convenience and saving to the State

Clause put and passed.

Clause 5—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

*House adjourned at 9.48 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 18th October, 1921.*

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTION—AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES asked the Minister for Education: 1, Will he lay upon the Table of the House the Auditor General's supplementary report or reports for the year ended 30th June, 1920? 2, Will he lay upon the Table of the House the Auditor General's report or reports for the year ended 30th June, 1921?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, No supplementary report has been prepared separately, but it is understood that one will be included in the report for 1920-21. 2, It is anticipated that this report will be ready by the end of November, and will then be tabled.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Auditor General's report is laid on the Table, not by the Minister, but by the President.

Hon. J. Duffell: I understand that report is to hand to-day.

### QUESTION—STATE TRADING CONCERNS, RETURN.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES asked the Minister for Education: Will he lay upon the Table of the House a return dealing with State Trading Concerns similar to Return No. 17 supplied by the Treasurer dealing with public utilities?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: A return will be prepared corresponding as nearly as possible with Return No. 17.

### QUESTION—WHEAT POOL, FINAL PAYMENTS.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY (for Hon. C. F. Baxter) asked the Minister for Education: 1, The final payments on 1915-1916 wheat certificate being so small, is there any special reason why the Wheat Scheme should go to the expense of making final payments on that pool? 2, Seeing that this State has accounts in order to make final payments on all pools except 1920-1921, what action is being taken to expedite such payments?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, There is no special reason, other than the responsibility that rests on the Government to pay to certificate holders whatever residue may be left in the 1915-16 pool after provision has been made for the expense necessary in making the final payment. 2, Expedition is being constantly urged upon the Australian Wheat Board, and the various State schemes have faithfully promised to supply at the earliest moment possible any returns of State operations that may be necessary to assist in the finalisation of the respective pools.

### QUESTION—STATE TRADING CONCERNS.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: Is it the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill this session for the purpose of amending the State Trading Concerns Act in order to permit the Government to sell any one or more State trading concern without first obtaining the approval of Parliament?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes.

### ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Supply Bill (No. 2) £542,000.

### BILL—BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and returned to the Assembly with amendments.