

## **NURSES REGISTRATION BILL**

### **13 October 1921**

**Edith Cowan strongly supported the Bill to enhance the professional standards of nurses with the establishment of a registration procedure. She was also successful in her opposition to an amendment (14 December) which sought to provide registration to nurses on the basis of five years continuous nursing experience.**

*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 pm.*

*Mrs COWAN:* There seems to be a certain amount of confusion in the minds of some hon. members as to the difference between 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 suggestions 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 establishing 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 Wyalkatchem, 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 of 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 nurses 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 backyard. 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'Loghlen:* 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 qualifications 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 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 McCallum 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 body as possible. It will be seen by the personnel of the board of examiners that the 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 they not have those 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:* It would be better if the member for Roebourne 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 preferences 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 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 recommendation 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 today 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.

## **NURSES REGISTRATION BILL IN COMMITTEE**

**7 December 1921**

Resumed from the 18th October; Mr Stubbs in the Chair, the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

Clause 5—Who may be registered as nurses:

*The Chairman:* The member for North-East Fremantle had moved the following amendment—

Subclause 2, line 4—strike out the words “recognised by the board”.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* This is an amendment we were discussing when we reported progress.

*The Colonial Secretary:* Will you withdraw it?

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* I should think not. The subclause means that if a young girl had put in three years training at the Northam Hospital ten years ago or so, and holds a certificate to the effect that she is a properly trained nurse, and that girl is today earning her livelihood as a trained nurse, she will be debarred from continuing practice, if the Northam Hospital is not recognised by the board as a proper hospital for the training of nurses.

***Hansard pp. 2204 - 2206.***

*Mr Teesdale:* If the warmth displayed by the Minister in connection with country nurses and hospitals is any criterion to the warmth likely to be displayed by the board, then country nurses will have a bad time. I have had experience in country hospitals, having undergone serious operations in those institutions, and all I can say is that I have had the best of treatment from the doctors, matron and nurses. The Minister is not right in speaking disparagingly of the nurses as he has done. It does not follow that because a nurse may not be wearing crepe de chine or silk that she is not respectable. It is quite possible that country womenfolk know as much about attending an unfortunate man as a nurse in a bigger town, and it does not follow that because a girl has been in an institution with a few beds that she has not gained as much experience as a cog in the wheel of one of the big hospitals. It happens very often that two or three girls are singled out for important operations.

*Mrs COWAN:* They all take their turn.

*Mr Teesdale:* Their turns do not come too often. I consider that those girls are entitled to have every consideration shown them.

*Mrs COWAN:* I agree with the Minister about not amending Clause 5, but I do not agree about amending Clauses 2 or 3, because it seems to me that Clause 5 applies to a section of the nurses that it is desired shall be controlled, and which nurses must be trained in a place recognised by the board. If we leave out the words “recognised by the board” in Clauses 2 and 3 they would make it all right for the others.

*The Chairman:* We are only dealing with one amendment at a time and that amendment relates to Subclause 1.

*Mrs COWAN:* Well, of course, if I may not say any more on that subject, then I shall not. I do not think there is any feeling against nurses trained in country hospitals, but we must recognise that a nurse cannot get the same training in a small country hospital that she can get in a big hospital which has a number of different wards, and where they devote a long period of time to training in each particular section. If we make further amendments, we can make the position perfectly just and right for all sections.

*The Minister for Works:* The best engineers the world has ever seen were trained in small shops.

*Mrs COWAN:* Engineers and nurses are hardly on the same footing. If the Minister for Works thinks so, I can only say it is a great pity he was not born a woman. I too desire to give nurses in private hospitals a chance, and I want to see that we provide for those women who have had no training at all. It seems to me, however, that under the Bill they are provided for, and that they can register if they can pass an examination.

*The Minister for Works:* The best engineers the world has ever seen were trained in small shops where they were well looked after by good men. Therefore I will not subscribe to the statement that because a nurse may have been trained in a small hospital, she may not be able to carry out her work as well as a nurse trained in a bigger institution. I know that at timber mills, on railway contracts and on public works generally where many men are employed—

*Mrs COWAN:* Would you call nursing a public work in that sense?

*The Minister for Works:* Yes, and a public work that should be respected too. I am grateful to the nurses I have met in different parts of Australia and I have met those who without having been trained in a hospital knew exactly what to do in an emergency. In small engineering shops men who are being trained have to do all kinds of work and they do that work thoroughly because they know the boss's eye is on them. In big engineering shops they are put on to special work. We should be very careful we do not throw obstacles in the way of those who have to get their training in small country hospitals.

*Mr Money:* I am not quite sure whether the Minister or members have read this clause carefully. The first subclause sets out “.....As a nurse in a hospital or .....” something

else. That something else is an establishment recognised by the board. Everything depends on how this is read. "Or something else" means some alternative.

*The Colonial Secretary:* So long as it is recognised by the board.

*Mr Money:* The alternative is a training establishment recognised by the board.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* You cannot read it that way.

*Mr Money:* If the word "and" were there, it would mean both. The word "or" is used, and that means either. Clearly, an alternative is given to "hospital", and that alternative is some institution recognised by the board, not necessarily a hospital at all. I read the clause as I find it.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* You find no stop there.

*Mr Money:* I find the alternative "or". Pass the clause as it is, and I guarantee that in any court in Western Australia I will get it for both.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* Never!

*Mr Davies:* One does not like differing with a professional man, but I hold the clause can be read in a different way from that put forward by the member for Bunbury. The retention of the words "recognised by the board" is hardly so important as the Minister would have us believe. By what right shall a board not yet in existence declare, say next June, to girls who have finished their training today, and are recognised today, that they must prove to the satisfaction of the board that they have received certain instruction? That is indeed retrospective legislation.

*Mr Money:* I wish to move a further amendment, namely, to insert between the words "or" and "training," in line 4, the words "in a".

*The Chairman:* I cannot accept that amendment except with the consent of the mover of the amendment before the Chair.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* I do not agree to that, because I maintain that a nurse should pass an examination, no matter where she was trained.

*Mr Money:* Apparently the whole standing of the board is at stake, in the opinion of the Committee. If that is so, the Committee has no right to confer any powers whatever upon the board. If the board are not competent to declare what shall be a recognised training establishment, we had better have no board, and let the legal position of nurses remain what it is. From this tendency of Parliament to interfere in matters that hon. members are not qualified to deal with, many of our present troubles have sprung. If we constitute a board at all, we should leave this matter to the board.

*Mr McCallum:* It seems to me that the member for Bunbury entirely misunderstands the amendment, which does not involve any question of confidence in the board, but a question as to limiting the scope within which nurses can become registered. Say we

have 100 nurses upwards of 21 years of age trained all over the State; then the board, upon being appointed, could say to them, "We will set you an examination to pass, but we will admit to that examination only those of you who have had your training in hospitals of which we approve".

*Mr Mann:* Do not you approve of that?

*Mr McCallum:* No. Why not widen the scope, instead of limiting it? Let there be the widest possible opportunity for registration of nurses having the necessary qualifications.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result: -

Ayes	..	..	..	..	27
Noes	..	..	..	..	10
					—
Majority for				..	17
					—

AYES

Mr Angelo Mr Angwin Mr Boyland Mr Carter Mr Corboy Mr Davies Mr Gibson Mr Heron Mr Hickmott Mr Johnston Mr Lambert Mr Lutey Mr C C Maley	Mr Marshall Mr McCallum Mr Munsie Mr Pickering Mr J H Smith Mr J M Smith Mr Teesdale Mr Thomson Mr Troy Mr Underwood Mr Willcock Mr O'Loughlen ( <i>Teller</i> )
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NOES

Mr Brown Mrs Cowan Mr George Mr H K Maley Mr Mann	Sir James Mitchell Mr Money Mr Piesse Mr J Thomson Mr Mullany ( <i>Teller</i> )
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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 14 December 1921

Amendment thus passed.

Progress reported.

Resumed from 18th October; Mr Munsie in the Chair, the Colonial Secretary in charge of the Bill.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* When last the Bill was before us, I moved an amendment, that in line 4 of Subclause 2 "recognised by the board" be struck out. I do not wish to discuss the point any further.

Amendment put and passed.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of Subclause 4 "recognised by the board" be struck out.

Amendment put and passed.

*Hon. W.C. Angwin:* I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of Subclause 4 "recognised by the board" be struck out.

*Mr SAMPSON:* The principle here is entirely different. I am opposed to the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

*Mr MacCallum SMITH:* I move an amendment—

That the following be added to stand as Subclause (5):— "Every person who has attained the age of twenty-six years and who at the passing of this Act is practising as a nurse and has continuously done so for not less than five years before the passing of this Act in Western Australia, may, until the 30th day of June, 1922, be registered as a trained nurse on payment of the prescribed fee."

My object is to provide for every person who has been practising as a nurse.

*Mr Mann:* How are you to define "practising"?

*Hon P. Collier:* Or "nurse"? A Sairey Gamp might be qualified under this.

*Mr MacCallum SMITH:* I think that most uncalled for. Many deserving women in the bush are performing excellent services amongst the sick. It would be an injustice to debar them from obtaining a certificate.

*Mr Mann:* We are not debarring them from practising, only from being called trained nurses.

*Mr MacCallum SMITH:* And it is most unfair. It means that nobody would engage them. We have made similar concessions in respect of chemists, dentists, veterinary surgeons, and managing clerks for legal firms. In each of those instances we have recognised that there are persons who could not pass the qualified examination, but who nevertheless are doing good work. This legislation will deprive some of those nurses of their livelihood, unless we make special provision for them.

*The COLONIAL SECRETARY:* I scarcely think the hon. member is serious in his amendment. I hope the Committee will not agree to it. The Bill does not prevent any practising nurse from continuing to practice. I pointed that out on the second reading. The hon. Member says it applies to registered nurses. But there is nothing in the amendment about registered nurses; it will include anybody who is practising and has been practising for five years. We have today nurses who are not competent to be registered, but who nevertheless have been practising for 10 years.

*Mrs COWAN:* I do not quite understand the amendment. The hon. Member refers to any person who at the passing of the Act is practising as a nurse. What kind of nurse does he mean? I might have had a nurse for my children for the past five years, and so, under the amendment, she would be entitled to apply to be registered as a trained nurse. We require a definition of "nurse".

*Mr CORBOY:* I hope the new subclause will be added. Anyone who is qualified should be entitled to be registered and classed as a registered nurse. A similar provision applies to dentists. If the amendment is not made, we shall have registered nurses and nurses who are permitted to practise. This will be detrimental to the latter class.

*Mr PICKERING:* We should afford the same facilities under this Bill as have been afforded under other bills of a similar nature. A stigma may be cast upon those nurses who are not allowed to be registered but who have been practising. The Minister might accept the amendment with some qualification with regard to "trained nurse".

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	..	14
Noes	..	..	..	..	..	27
<hr/>						
				Majority against	..	13
<hr/>						

Ayes

Mr Chesson Mr Davies Mr Heron Mr Johnston Mr Lambert Mr O'Loghlen Mr Pickering	Mr Piesse Mr J.H. Smith Mr Stubbs Mr Teesdale Mr A Thomson Mr Troy Mr Corboy
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Noes

Mr Angelo Mr Angwin Mr Boyland Mr Broun Mr Clydesdale Mr Collier Mr Cowan Mr Denton Mr Durack Mr George Mr Gibson Mr Harrison Mr Hickmott Mr Lutey	Mr C.C. Maley Mr H K Maley Mr Mann Mc McCallum Sir James Mitchell Mr Money Mr Richardson Mr Sampson Mr Simons Mr Underwood Mr Willcock Mr Wilson Mr Mullany (Teller)
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Amendment thus negated.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.