

us, at some time in our lives, have benefited by the services of the nursing profession, I would like to make a brief explanation. The main purpose of the bill is to permit the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland to become an association member of the Canadian Nurses' Association.

The Canadian Nurses' Association was incorporated by special Act of Parliament, chapter 88 of the Statutes of 1947. The association existed for thirty-five years before that as an unincorporated association.

As the federation of nine of the Provincial Nurses Associations, it represents the registered nurses of Canada in the eyes of the people of Canada. It is a member of the International Council of Nurses and as such it is the recognized voice of Canadian nursing in the international field. The membership of the Canadian Nurses' Association as of December 31, 1953 was 35,195 registered nurses.

There are in Canada 171 schools of nursing, with a total enrolment of 15,713 student nurses. These schools graduate, in all, approximately 4,000 nurses per year. In addition, there are 14 university schools of nursing giving post-graduate courses for nurses, and in some instances basic nursing preparation.

The members of the Canadian Nurses' Association had a splendid record of service in the last war, when 3,040 registered nurses were on active service with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, 280 with the Royal Canadian Navy, 450 with the Royal Canadian Air Force. As well, 300 volunteered for service in the South African Military Nursing services: a total of 5,070 on active service. Some 500 decorations were awarded to Canadian registered nurses.

The objects of the Association, which are set out in the 1947 incorporating act are: (a) To dignify the profession of nursing by maintaining and improving the ethical and professional standards of nursing education and service; (b) to encourage its members to participate in affairs promoting the public welfare; (c) to promote the best interests of the nurses of Canada and to maintain national unity among them; (d) to encourage an attitude of mutual understanding with the nurses of other countries.

The purpose of the present bill is to permit the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland to be included as an association member of the Canadian Nurses' Association. In 1947, when the incorporating act was passed, Newfoundland not being within confederation, the Newfoundland association was not included as an association member. The Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland has applied for membership in

the Canadian Nurses' Association, and the Canadian body wishes to accord membership to the Newfoundland association. The nurses of Newfoundland have pledged their willingness to accept the responsibilities and privileges which membership in the Canadian Nurses' Association will involve.

The bill contains a secondary provision of a minor nature. Since the Association was incorporated the Registered Nurses' Association of Prince Edward Island, one of the association members listed in section 60 of the incorporating act, has changed its name to the Association of Nurses of Prince Edward Island, and it is desired to properly describe that body in the statute.

I might say a further word for the information of honourable senators about the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland. In the past the registration of nurses in Newfoundland was the responsibility of the Department of Health of Newfoundland. At the request of the Graduate Nurses Association of Newfoundland the nurses were given the responsibility of setting the standards for professional nursing by the enactment on December 20, 1953, of the Newfoundland Registered Nurses Act. Thereafter the Graduate Nurses Association of Newfoundland ceased to exist and was superseded by the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland, the incorporation of which was provided for in the provincial statute.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read the second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the bill be read the third time?

Hon. Mr. Paterson: Honourable members, there is nothing contentious in this bill and ordinarily it would be referred to the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills. However, in order to obviate the necessity for calling a meeting of that committee to deal with one piece of legislation, I would move that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce, which, I understand, will be meeting shortly to consider other legislation.

The motion was agreed to.

DIVORCE PETITIONS

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CONCURRED IN

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the reports of the Standing Committee on Divorce, Nos. 306 to 318, dealing with petitions for divorce.