

My father-in-law's critique of Protectionism ^{proved correct!} The Bulletin 26.9.1970

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Nurses Registration Board would be reconstituted to fulfil functions similar to those of the N.S.W. Medical Board for doctors. It would have statutory power and take into account such factors as good character as well as attained qualifications.

The report comes at a time when the nursing profession is far from united about what it is and what would be a good education for wherever it is going. All accept that the character of the education is crucial to the quality of the nurse and that past practices have been deficient — if only because the chronic nursing shortage and instability of tenure within the profession meant that hospitals made use of whatever nurses they could lay their hands on, trained or untrained, to do chores ranging from cleaning toilets to caring for the chronically sick, alone in the middle of the night.

Some observers have seen three main problems facing the planners of nursing education: the dilemma between nursing education and nursing service (which might be helped by more teaching in the wards instead of in tutor schools); the problem of how much theory to incorporate for registration exams (this might be faced by less theory rather than more); the problem of smaller hospitals conducting tutor schools, no matter how small (being abolished by ending their right to run tutor schools).

In a drive to raise the status of nurses, improve their education and give meaning to the "total care" patient-centred definition of nursing that is now popular, the Truskett committee has gone against these type of solutions. It will take the life-and-death power of nursing education out of the hands of the hospital matrons and spread it around among trained nurse-educators. Given the influence of the matrons, the ructions over the next few weeks should be loud and long.

The report's recommendations also have important educational implications. The most important is the move to put nursing into the CAEs. There has been a trend for nurses who feel that getting-to-know-the-patient requires higher education to go for university Arts degrees. That grab for status has been knocked on the head and redirected into the CAEs, which might also offer a more relevant technological slant to nursing education.

It is also felt that the Truskett proposals represent a different way of approaching CAE-level nurse training from that which has operated in Victoria with the Melbourne College of Nursing. The Victorian scheme has the cost economies of centralisation but the disadvantage of putting nurse education in the hands of a few, all-powerful educators. The N.S.W. proposal could result in several CAEs training nurses side by side with teachers and other professionals. The result could well be a broadening of intellectual experience for the trainee

nurse as well as the advantage of having a number of different nurse education schemes operating at once.

What happens now? It's anyone's guess. The idea of shifting nursing education to an appropriate board (like the Advanced Education Board set up last year for higher education) ultimately responsible to a new Minister, of Education, is already provoking resistance. Some key figures in the N.S.W. Health Department, including the Director of Health Services, Dr. Meyers, are fighting the idea, and they are backed up by the matrons. The pro-Truskett people will also need to win over the CAEs' Wark committee if it is to get funds to get its ideas off the ground in the next triennium.



Mr. Jedlin ^{my father-in-law} fights a lonely battle ^{Eva's father}

By PETER SAMUEL

ON THE very left of the winding Victoria Road after the Glebe Island Bridge in Sydney's Rozelle is a collection of decrepit tin sheds carrying the sign CREST MILLS. The owner and manager of the firm, Mr. Asher Jedlin, is pretty ashamed of the place. It is a small, quite old-fashioned mill manufacturing various flours and prepared stockfeeds for export. Men lug the raw materials on their shoulders and pass bags of flour by hand.

But Crest Mills is not some relic of the 19th century. The firm makes most of its money from its second mill situated 15 miles through the suburbs to the west at Merrylands. There Mr. Jedlin has a very modern outfit, with the most modern plant, bulk-handling, research scientists, consumer services and a \$5 million annual turnover. His Merrylands plant is one of the three largest suppliers of prepared feeds to the thousands of poultry farmers and pigmen to the west of Sydney. His mills grind around the clock and the

Mr. Asher Jedlin points out the Rozelle water frontage where, for five years, he has dreamt of building grain bulk-loading facilities. But the Maritime Services Board is still deciding whether or not to utilise the land

huge tanker-trucks transport the various scientifically blended feeds efficiently enough to make Mr. Jedlin profits he puts at "over half a million" a year. So there can be no doubting Mr. Jedlin's business knowledge and ability.

Not that he is mainly concerned these days with his business as such. He says he spends 80 percent of his time campaigning. A man of 70, he says he now puts his campaigning first in personal priorities. It all goes back to the troubles he has had at Rozelle, where he has had dreams of developing a major new export industry. These dreams have been frustrated by the immobilism of various Government instrumentalities and by what he sees as the sinister influence of the Country Party.

Mr. Jedlin migrated to Australia in 1949 from England and before that Switzerland, where he learnt his business. He brings with him some of the fieriness of the European political tradition, which has always failed to mesh with the rather Irish wheeler-dealer, inside-fixing style of Australian politics at the State level.

Mr. Jedlin has only fairly recently become heavily involved in politics. Early on he established himself at