

The HON. MEDICAL SECRETARY (Mr. E. A. Fardon) read the report of the Executive Committee, of which H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN moved the adoption.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK deeply regretted to be compelled to object very strongly to this Report. The two last paragraphs were so important that they overshadowed everything else, and as the consideration given to those clauses by the Council would doubtless be most careful and thorough, he would only say with regard to the rest of the Report that it was impossible to agree with the methods of business adopted by the Committee. Two years ago, the Council directed the Committee to organise courses of lectures on Nursing subjects, a proceeding which other societies without the prestige or special influence of the Corporation carried out with much success. Last July, the Executive Committee reported that their lectures had been a failure and asked that they should be discontinued. The Council consented. In October, the Committee asked the Council to rescind its last Resolution and let the lectures be started again. So a second rescinding took place. Now the Committee came to the Council and desired the Resolution of the October Meeting to be rescinded, and pleaded that the Corporation has "disavowed" any intention of undertaking such work. As a matter of fact, the Executive Committee seemed curiously unaware of the very purposes and powers of the Corporation, because the Royal Charter expressly states that the Association is empowered to promote the delivery of "Lectures." He regretted that the Association could not succeed as smaller bodies had done, in this most useful work. But he passed on to a vitally important matter. The Report contained a short and very inadequate notice concerning proceedings successfully taken by a Registered Nurse against the Executive Committee in the High Court of Justice.

Sir JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE here said that Dr. Fenwick had given a Notice which appeared upon the agenda, to discuss this case of Nurse Barlow. The matter could not be discussed twice, and he therefore ruled that Dr. Fenwick was out of order in raising the question now.

Dr. FENWICK submitted that the Council was considering the Report and he was entitled to discuss anything which appear in the Report.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Meeting to support his ruling.

Dr. HUGH WOODS rose to order and submitted that the Chairman was out of order in not permitting a discussion on any matter in the Report. He pointed out that the Chairman might propose that the two last paragraphs be deleted from the Report, but if the Council was asked to adopt those clauses it was an unheard of proceeding to attempt to prevent them being discussed.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Meeting to vote in support of the Chair.

Dr. FENWICK rose to order and asked that the Chairman should put it to the Meeting whether the question of this Nurse's case should be raised on the Report or on the motion of which he had given notice. He had not the slightest intention of discussing the question twice and preferred to bring it up on the Report of the Committee.

Mr. GEORGE BROWN rose to order and said that he had a wide experience of public bodies and public meetings, but that he had never before heard an attempt made to prevent a meeting discussing a Report

they were asked to adopt. He knew nothing about this case, but it seemed a most important thing for the Meeting to hear both sides before it came to any decision.

The CHAIRMAN called upon the Meeting to support the ruling of the Chair. And there voted 43 in support of the ruling and 17 against.

Dr. FENWICK said that he was compelled by the action of the Chairman in preventing debate on a matter vitally important to the Corporation to propose an amendment to the Resolution for adopting the Report—he did so with the greatest reluctance, but if the Council was prevented from discussing the Report they should not be asked to accept it. He therefore proposed that the Council should decline to adopt a Report which they were prevented from discussing.

Dr. BEZLY THORNE said they had on previous occasions heard Dr. Fenwick state that the members of the Council were prevented from expressing their views, and that free speech was not allowed. Dr. Thorne protested at considerable length against such statements, which he considered most reprehensible and entirely unfounded.

The amendment was put to the meeting, but was defeated, about the same number voting on either side as in the previous motion; the Chairman, however, announced that the report was adopted "by an enormous majority."

Mr. FARDON proposed that Dr. Calvert should be elected to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee, and this was agreed to.

The next business was the notice of motion standing in Dr. Fenwick's name, and upon his rising to speak to this, Sir JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE rose and said that Her Royal Highness had summoned a special meeting of the Corporation to consider the case of Nurse Barlow, and therefore he would ask Dr. Fenwick, as a matter of courtesy to Her Royal Highness, not to proceed with his motion. But if Dr. Fenwick did not yield to that request, he must rule Dr. Fenwick out of order. He had taken legal advice and Dr. Fenwick's notice of motion was not in order, and therefore he could not bring the matter forward at this meeting.

Dr. FENWICK rose to order. The Chairman had a few minutes ago put it to the meeting that he ruled this question of Nurse Barlow's action could not be discussed twice. What did he mean by that if he had intended to prevent the matter being discussed at all?

Dr. HUGH WOODS rose to order and said that many of them had voted for the Chairman's ruling, never dreaming that by so doing discussion of this case would be burked altogether. Even if Dr. Fenwick's notice of motion was out of order, he would have been quite in order in bringing it up on the report of Executive Committee. He protested against the Chairman's proceedings, for he must point out that this Council might have heard both sides of Miss Barlow's case, and come to some judgment upon it. He, for one, knew nothing about it at all, but the resolution for the general meeting of members simply prejudged the case and said that the Nurse had been in the wrong. He had never heard of more extraordinary proceedings.

Dr. FENWICK rose to order and called the attention of the Chairman to the words of the Charter, "The General Council shall be the governing body of the Corporation." "The ultimate decision on any matter

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