

public mind the same position as that taken by anyone who, however ignorant or unworthy, chose to call herself a "Nurse." It was very unjust to the sick that such unqualified Nurses should be palmed off upon them. Legislation would to a large extent remedy these evils, because the public would then be able to distinguish between the trained and the untrained. The quack Nurse, like the quack Doctor, would probably always exist, but the public would at any rate employ her, knowing that she was a quack. A principle that would have to be fairly considered in legislation for Nurses would be the vested interests of those who were at the time *bonâ fide* engaged in nursing the sick for payment, whether they had had one, two, or three years' training, or even no Hospital training at all. All these workers would doubtless be afforded the opportunity, during a "time of grace," extending perhaps over six months or even a year, of placing their names on the Register. After that time, all future Nurses would be required to have conformed and attained to the recognised standard. In forming a new body to control the Nursing profession, which for the sake of clearness he would call the General Nursing Council, no doubt some such representation as had been adopted in the General Medical Council would be made. That Council consisted of representatives of the Examining Bodies, of Representatives of the Privy Council, and of Direct Representatives elected by registered medical men. But in the case of Nurses there were at least 400 Hospitals which took in pupils, and most of them certificated them when trained. It was evident, therefore, that all these Institutions, large and small, could not be represented on the Council. How was the representation to be limited? No Hospital which contained less than 100 beds was recognised as a Medical School, and so it would be fair, perhaps, to say that all Hospitals with more than 100 beds might send one representative to the General Nursing Council. There were about 100 Training Schools for Nurses in the United Kingdom containing 100 beds and over. Then he suggested that some 15 Direct Representatives of the Nursing profession should be elected by the registered Nurses by ballot, to serve on the Council. Then the Maternity Hospitals would probably be accorded some eight representatives. At least five medical men should be given seats; two other representatives should be appointed by the Privy Council. The Nursing Council would thus consist of—

Training School Representatives	100
Direct Nursing	"	...	15
Maternity Hospital	"	...	8
Medical Men	"	...	5
Privy Council	"	...	2

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The Nursing Council would probably meet at least once in each year, would possess the controlling power in the determination of all matters affecting Nursing education and discipline, would decide upon the curriculum of education through which every Nurse must pass before she could be eligible for Registration; would decide upon the Regulations to be fulfilled, the Examinations to be passed, the Certificates to be produced, and the fees to be paid by applicants for Registration; would indicate to the Executive Board the chief lines of its work, and would, in fact, become the consultative and governing body of the Nursing profession, by which

all educational measures would be discussed and settled, and which would finally act as a Court of Appeal in all cases of discipline. Dr. Fenwick then briefly sketched out the constitution of the Executive Board or working body of the Council, and which he suggested should consist of forty members. In conclusion, Dr. Fenwick briefly pointed out the great advantages which every individual Nurse would gain by being a member of a profession, legally recognised and controlled, and urged all Nurses to take an active interest in the movement.

Sister LAWRENCE said that with regard to the representatives sent to the proposed Nursing Council, she would like to know whether these would be men or women; professional persons or lay representatives?

Dr. FENWICK said this would all depend on the wording of the Act. Only registered medical men were eligible for membership of the General Medical Council, and in view of the extremely technical matters involved, he imagined that only medical men and registered Nurses would be eligible for membership of the Nursing Council.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said, in answering the question as to why Nurses did not appear to take much interest in their own affairs, she thought, considering how little individuality Nurses could show in the exercise of their profession, that it was wonderful the Nurses had gained so much. Artists and many other professional women had not combined and the Nurses were the only professional women whose Association was Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Mrs. GRAY said she thought a great many Nurses held back from moving in matters connected with their profession because they were afraid of going against the opinions of the medical men with whom and for whom they worked. She also thought many women were constitutionally unwilling to take a part in public affairs.

Some desultory conversation took place, and Dr. FENWICK replied to various inquiries which were made.

Miss ANNESLEY KENEALY said she was particularly interested in the remarks which had been made on the necessity for the Direct Representation of the Nurses. It appeared to her that when the delegate from the Royal British Nurses' Association both spoke and voted *against* State Registration at the Conference of Nursing authorities and the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, it showed that the Royal British Nurses' Association did not represent the best interests of the Nurses. Such a retrograde step as the opposition to State Registration of Nurses should never have been taken by a Nursing Association, and never would have been if the Nurses had been properly represented on that body. With regard to the statement often made, that Nurses were apathetic as to their own interests, all women had shown themselves apathetic, or they would long since have demanded the ordinary rights of citizenship and the power to vote. Nowadays it was the custom for women to imitate men in the minor matters—and she held that they had perfect freedom to do so if they chose. But she maintained that it would be far better for women to follow the example of the men in their determination to organise—in their Trades Unionist feelings and their power of Co-operative Selfishness. Until women ceased to be so personal, and cared more for the great body of their

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