

Bye-Laws, and I venture to think that he would have saved us a great deal of trouble if he had made his "simple" suggestions before, instead of springing them upon this Meeting now. This proceeding, however, is a valuable proof of how carelessly this important work has been accomplished by the officials. This also illustrates the unfairness to the Members of considering these Bye-Laws bit by bit, and separately; here a little and there a little. I venture to predict that by this course the Meeting will not be able properly to discuss and consider the Bye-Laws. As the General Council has been complaisant enough to pass these Bye-Laws in their present form, I submit that we are entitled to consider the Bye-Laws in the order in which they are presented to us on the agenda paper. (Applause.)

Mr. FARDON: I hope the Meeting will pass this amendment. It does not alter in the slightest degree the principle of the Bye-Laws. It is simply an arrangement for the convenience of the Association generally, that the First Annual General Meeting shall be held at a convenient time after the coming into operation of these Bye-Laws. (Applause.)

Dr. DUNCAN: Mr. Chairman, I think, Sir, it will be better if these Bye-Laws be taken *seriatim*. I think it more satisfactory always when you are drawing out new Bye-Laws that they should be taken *seriatim* (applause), and then the amendments will come in their due course. It seems to me that that will be the fairest way, as probably there are a great many of these Bye-Laws that no one in the room would care to propose an amendment to; if there is, then they could propose it as it is read. I, therefore, propose that these Bye-Laws be taken in their order. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: We shall take the amendments which have been sent in to us, and then we shall be willing to hear of any other amendments brought forward instead. Every Bye-Law will be definitely put before the Meeting, and carried in due order.

Dr. HUGH WOODS: I am very much afraid that the result of the lines on which we are starting this discussion will lead us to hold as many meetings of the Association in general as already have been held by the Executive to consider the Bye-Laws. Now, I consider this amendment requires very full and thorough discussion, and if we are to have a number of other amendments of the same kind, I think it is very probable that we shall need a good many more meetings. (Applause.) Some may think we are discussing an apparently trivial matter, but I do not think that one out of every fifty people in the room knows at present what is meant by this proposed amendment. (Hear, hear.) I should like to have a clear explanation of what the object is of altering the date of the Annual Meeting. Why is it wished to hold the Annual Meeting at a different time? Why not hold the Annual Meeting in May or June? I want to know why are we to have the date of the Annual Meeting altered at anybody's pleasure to a date otherwise than that on which it has been held hitherto. (Applause.)

Mr. FARDON: The amendment only refers to the first Annual Meeting, and the object of trying to get the amendment accepted is that we may hold our first Annual Meeting as soon as convenient after the coming into operation of these Bye-Laws, in order that the new Council and the new Executive Committee may get to work without any unnecessary delay. It does not apply to any other Annual Meeting at all. (Applause.)

The amendment was then put to the meeting and declared by the Chairman to be "carried by a large majority."

Dr. WETHERED: This, Sir, is very similar to the preceding, and provides that Bye-Law 19 should read as follows:—"The General Council to meet in January, April, and October, and a meeting of the General Council to be held in each year not less than fourteen or more than twenty-eight days after the General Meeting of the Corporation." The reason of this, Sir, is that by Bye-Law 10 it is possible to hold the meeting some time in May—at the end of May or the beginning of June—and in such case it would be impossible to follow 19 as it stands now, and hold it in July. This amendment makes it possible to meet four times in the year, that meeting to follow a meeting of the Annual General Meeting—quite a movable date.

The amendment was seconded by Dr. Coupland.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: That motion, Sir, having been formally proposed and seconded by two Members of the Executive Committee, I have once more—(laughter, No! and hear, hear)—I beg pardon, two members of the Middlesex Hospital staff—(much laughter)—two Members of the General Council—(hear, hear)—I have to point out, Sir, that we have again only a *written* amendment before us, which could have been perfectly easily made at any meeting of the Executive Committee or the General Council, and which then we should have had before us in print. We have an amendment read to us which I for one do not understand the necessity for. (Hear, hear.) I maintain that this proceeding is very unfair. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: The object of this amendment is simply to ensure that the provisions of the Bye-Laws shall be carried out, and it is thought desirable to hold the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting, between fourteen and twenty-eight days after that meeting. It is necessary to insert that provision in order to carry out that.

Dr. WOODS: I think we have the gravest reason to complain that these amendments are being sprung upon us without any time to consider the bearing of them. I have attended all the meetings of the Executive Committee, which went through these Bye-Laws. (Applause.) Now, I cannot on the spur of the moment take in what is the object of these specified little points and alterations. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I must inform this Meeting how proceedings were conducted on the Executive Committee in dealing with these Bye-Laws. I ask the Hon. Officers whether it is not a fact that after we held meeting after meeting of the Executive Committee and went laboriously through the Bye-Laws one by one—

The Chairman here called Dr. Woods to order.

Dr. WOODS: Will you kindly state on what point you call me to order. (Hear, hear, and much derisive laughter from a body of nurses in the centre of the hall.) I state, Sir, that I object to the passing of this amendment, because I say that a Bye-Law which has been carried by the Executive Committee after careful consideration, ought not to be altered now by a member of that Committee without grave reasons for so doing. The meeting should know the value of a discussion by the Executive Committee. I wish to ask these Hon. Officials whether it is not a fact that having gone through the amendment of the Bye-Laws, which had been passed by the Executive Committee, they on the last meeting of the Executive Committee, did not

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)