

thing was certain, the Memorandum now before the Board of Trade never was, and never could be, the right way.

No body of workers should ever be governed by a system that gives them no vote in the management of their own affairs, and no power to control the controlling body. It is not wise, it is not right, it is not just. Because she considered the petition to the Board of Trade embodied an injustice to herself and her fellow nurses she seconded the Resolution.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in supporting the motion, said that there was not, she believed, any other person in the room who had worked on all the committees which had had before them the important question of the State Registration of Nurses, and the rock on which they had always split had been the fundamental question of the representation of the nurses themselves. All nurses had the greatest respect for philanthropists in their own sphere, and the very greatest respect for the medical profession, but the most eminent members of that profession realised that nurses had the right to largely manage their own affairs. In asking Parliament to consider legislation we had asked for personal responsibility. The bitter opposition to this fundamental principle of good government was almost incredible. Mrs. Fenwick said that she felt confident that all those present at the meeting would refuse to submit to any despotic and unjust authority.

Miss E. S. Haldane, Chairman of the Committee for promoting the State Registration of Nurses in Scotland, said she had much pleasure in supporting the Resolution. The scheme before the meeting advocated a fictitious system of Registration which would carry no weight, and would only mystify the public. The only logical and satisfactory plan was to allow the State to undertake what it could easily do. Therefore nurses should support State Registration by Act of Parliament. The Scottish Committee, of which she was Chairman, had passed a Resolution of Protest to be sent to the Board of Trade. She hoped English nurses would do the same.

Miss Mary Burr, Hon. Secretary of the League of St. John's House Nurses, in supporting the Resolution, said that except in the title, nurses were never once mentioned in the Memorandum.

Miss A. J. Beatty having expressed the opinion that the scheme was a dangerous one to nurses, the Resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The second resolution, which was proposed by Miss G. A. Rogers, President of the Leicester Infirmary Nurses' League, was as follows:—

"That this Meeting earnestly supports the Bill for the Registration of Trained Nurses, introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Munro Ferguson, being convinced that the only possible remedy for the

present disorganised condition of Nursing Education in this country, and the many evils now existent in the nursing world, would be the institution of a representative Nursing Council, empowered by Act of Parliament to supervise Nursing Education, and maintain common rules of discipline in the Nursing Profession."

Miss Rogers said she would oppose any scheme in which direct representation was not guaranteed to nurses themselves. We had, she thought, the right to ask this. The demand for reform had come from within the profession. It had not been forced upon it by an indignant public. An important point was that if the financiers who were controlling this scheme held the purse strings, they might shut the doors of the nursing profession in the faces of any nurses who did not hold their certificate.

Miss Christina Forrest, Member of the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, said that with the deepest conviction of the absolute truth of the Resolution she supported and seconded it. As a member of the above Association she also protested strongly and emphatically against the scheme for the incorporation of the Society for promoting the higher education and training of nurses. She pleaded for the right of self-government under State authority, and emphatically objected to the control of a self-constituted body of seven gilded dummies.

Miss Musson, who supported the Resolution, said that it was represented to us that the gentlemen who were fathering this scheme were yearning to do us good. When she read it she thought they were putting themselves in a position to do us a great deal of harm. She advised all present to support the Bill of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in which the provisions were fair and above board.

No amendments were offered to this Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The third Resolution was proposed by Miss E. M. Roberts, late Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Co-operation. It was:—

"That copies of these Resolutions be sent to the Chairman of the Select Committee on Nursing, and that a Deputation be now appointed to wait upon the Right Honble. the President of the Board of Trade (if he will receive the same), to present to him copies of these Resolutions."

Miss Roberts said she had very little to add in proposing this Resolution to what had been already said, but she urged all present to consider the question seriously, to study it, and then to throw in their lot with those who were working to obtain the State Registration of Nurses by Act of Parliament.

The Resolution was seconded by Miss Ross, Member of the Executive Committee of the State Registration Society. A deputation was nominated, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for her kindness in presiding brought to a conclusion a most successful meeting.

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