

of training, of examinations, registration, and of discipline. Surely, with these powers the majority of the governing body should be elected by and from the profession they govern. She therefore moved that the sub-sections in Clause 4 dealing with this question should be deleted, and that the paragraphs referring to the representation of Matrons and nurses in the previous Bill be restored.

The amendment would, if carried, restore the seven direct representatives to the nurses. If the Central Board was considered too large it would be easy, Miss Forrest remarked, to restore the balance by taking out some of the medical men. The chairman said they might be medical women, when a member remarked that still they were doctors, not nurses.

Miss Forrest again emphasised the unjust proportion of seats given to members of the medical profession.

Miss Eleanor Clarke seconded the amendment, and objected to the insufficient representation of the nurses. She said that no profession would like to be governed by another, "You would not like it yourselves." The Chairman said that no Act of Parliament would sanction the constitution of so large a Governing Body for a profession as that proposed (nineteen members). Mrs. Fenwick then pointed out that Parliament had sanctioned the constitution of the General Medical Council, which consists of thirty-three members. She remarked further that no one in touch with the feeling of nurses in the United Kingdom would have proposed such an arrangement as to give 80,000 nurses one direct representative on their Governing Body. The 30,000 medical practitioners on the Medical Register had five direct representatives, and in the Medical Acts' Amendment Bill they were claiming that the direct representation should be increased to one half of the whole Medical Council. She pointed out that the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, which was a more progressive and influential body than the R.B.N.A., provided in its Bill for a just proportion of Direct Representatives. It would never consent to the enslavement of the nurses. If the Clause were passed it would agitate against it in every possible way. The R.B.N.A. had at one time repudiated the principle of Registration. Whatever this unrepresentative Association passed which was contrary to the interests of the nursing profession at large, would be determinedly contested. She did not believe the new Government would pass any measure which would deprive trained nurses of all power on the Governing Body of their own profession. It was an insult to the nurses of the United Kingdom that it should have been proposed.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was lost by 27 votes to 33.

Miss Kuys, seconded by Miss Tawney, then proposed that in the place of one direct representative of the nurses there should be one each for London, Scotland, and Ireland, and two for the provinces and Wales. This was carried by 41 votes to 18.

This most momentous question having been decided the excitement somewhat subsided, but in relation to Clause 8, dealing with the publication of the Register, Miss Halkett, seconded by Miss

Katherine Scott (Brighton), did good service by proposing that addresses as well as names should be inserted. Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that a Register without addresses was useless. Dr. Comyns Berkeley tried to induce the meeting to believe that nurses were people having no addresses and that Parliament would not permit them to have any. Miss Forrest said she had a staff of 160 nurses, and there was not one of them who would not be ashamed to say that she had no permanent address. The amendment was adopted.

It was quite evident from the proceedings that there are at last quite a number of nurse members of the Association who realise their professional responsibility when dealing with the affairs of the profession at large.

The privileges gained by the nurse members were:—

1. Five direct representatives, instead of one, to be elected by the registered nurses themselves.
2. That the Royal British Nurses' Association should be represented on the Central Board by a nurse.
3. That the addresses of the nurses, as well as their names, should be inserted in the Register of Nurses published under the Act.

Three amendments of which the far-reaching importance was neither understood nor appreciated by those who voted against them.

Appointments.

LADY SUPERINTENDENTS.

General Hospital, Wolverhampton.—Miss Henrietta Hannath has been appointed Lady Superintendent at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton. She was trained at King's College Hospital, London, and has held the position of Assistant Matron at the General Hospital, Birmingham.

Nursing Association, Lewes.—Miss Alice Wood has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Home of the Lewes Nursing Association, Lewes. She received her training at the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

Surgical Home, Osnaburgh Terrace.—Miss A. K. Travers, who was trained at the Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, and who for five years has held the post of Assistant Matron in the same institution, has undertaken the working of Mrs. Butcher's Surgical Home, 7 and 8, Osnaburgh Terrace, Portland Place, London, W. Miss Travers has, during her twelve years at the Sussex County Hospital, held other important posts, as Ward Sister, Theatre Sister, and Night Superintendent. She will be greatly missed by all with whom she has worked.

NIGHT SISTER.

Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Miss Lydia Harvey Rigby has been appointed, out of thirty-six candidates, Night Sister at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where she has done Sister's duties. She has also had experience in house-keeping in connection with the Nurses' Home. She has recently held the position of Sister at the Samaritan Free Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)