

- (j) A president, to be elected by the General Nursing Council when completely constituted under this section, and who shall be an appointed or elected member of the Council.

Every nurse appointed or elected as aforesaid shall be eligible to be and shall in due course be registered under the provisions of this Act.

EXPLANATION.

In regard to the constitution of the Council Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that the recommendation of the Select Committee as to the reduction of the Council had been carefully considered, and it had been reduced by nine. This left a Council of twenty-two persons, and the Executive Committee had not felt justified in reducing the number of members further, having regard to the further recommendation of the Committee that it should include representatives of the lay public, the medical profession, Matrons, and nurses. The medical profession, consisting of some 30,000 registered practitioners had a Council of thirty-three persons. It was probable that before many years had elapsed the registered nurses would number 100,000.

The main differences were that
 Three Medical Practitioners,
 Three Matrons,
 Two Direct Representatives, and
 Two Nominated Members had been removed.

A quite unfounded accusation brought against the Bill was that it ignored the training schools. Provision has now been made that three representatives of the Training Schools of the United Kingdom should be appointed by the Privy Council. Representation had been given to a medical practitioner appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association.

The word "representative" had been substituted for "nurse" in connection with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, which is a Society employing nurses, not a self-governing body of nurses.

The words "ex or acting" had been introduced before "Matron" in regard to the Matrons' representatives in order to render available the valuable services of Matrons and Superintendents not in active work.

One of the direct representatives of the nurses must hold the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, so that provision is made for the representation of the interests of mental nurses by one of their number. The direct representatives of the nurses provided for are eight in number. Four for England and Wales, two for Scotland, and two for Ireland.

Under Clause 13 "Duties and Powers of the Council" Sub-Section (2) now reads:—"To appoint examiners and inspectors," the provision for inspectors having been made in conformity with the suggestion of the Select Committee.

Under Clause 14 "Provision for Existing Nurses," in Sub-section 2, an addition has been made providing that, in the case of nurses not holding three years' certificates of training, registered during the two years' term of grace, applicants must pro-

duce evidence of training satisfactory to the Council, and, in addition, have been for three years in *bond-fide* practice as a nurse.

Clause 16 has been added as follows:—

NURSES TRAINED IN THE COLONIES.

16. Any person who shall produce evidence satisfactory to the General Nursing Council of having been trained as a nurse and registered in any part of the British Dominions where a Nurses' Registration Act is in force, may be registered under this Act, provided that the standard of training and examination is equivalent to the standard adopted by the General Nursing Council in the United Kingdom, upon payment of the usual registration fee, provided also that such Dominion admit to its Register British registered nurses on reciprocal terms.

Clause 17 has been added to meet the recommendation of the Select Committee in regard to a separate Register for Asylum Attendants, as follows:—

THE NURSING REGISTER.

17. There shall be:—

- (1) A General Register of nurses containing the names of nurses who have been registered under Sections 14, 15, and 16 of this Act.
- (2) A Supplementary Register of Asylum Trained Nurses to be called the Mental Nurses' Register to contain the names of nurses who hold the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association, or its equivalent.

In Clause 18, under the heading "Fees and Expenses," the Bill provides that the fee for registration shall not exceed £2 2s., while the fee for examination, formerly undefined, is not to exceed £3 3s.

Clause 25 has been inserted to safeguard the interest of nurses before suspension or removal from the Register as follows:—

NOTICE OF CONDUCT IMPUTED TO REGISTERED NURSE TO BE GIVEN TO HIM OR HER BEFORE SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL FROM REGISTER.

25. The General Nursing Council shall not suspend or remove any nurse's name from the Register without sending to such nurse a statement in writing, by registered letter, of the conduct imputed to him or her, and without affording the person concerned an opportunity of giving an explanation in writing or in person.

Other alterations were of minor, or merely technical importance.

The adoption of the Bill as a whole was proposed by Miss Pearse, Matron Great Northern Central Hospital, seconded by Miss Barton, Matron of the Chelsea Infirmary, and carried unanimously.

THE DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Chairman then called upon the Honorary Secretary to read letters in support of the Resolution which stood on the Agenda in the names of Miss Todd and Miss Burr, M.R.B.N.A.

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