

Miss Burr rose to propose an amendment, when the Chairman attempted to put the resolution to the meeting. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick claimed the right of the members to discuss the resolution. Miss Forrest also claimed this right.

Miss J. P. Jamieson asked if a meeting were legal to which all the members had not been summoned. She had not received a notice. Miss Eleanor Clarke and Miss MacVitie both stated they had received no notice of the meeting. The Chairman attempted to describe this as a clerical error, and Dr. Comyns Berkeley laid the blame upon the Post Office.

To bring the resolution into order so that the Bill might be legally discussed, Mrs. Fenwick proposed that the clause "that the Draft Bill be re-introduced in the form in which it left the Special Meeting of the General Council held on Monday, January 8th, 1906," be deleted. This was seconded by Miss Burr and lost, and the resolution carried. The business for which the meeting had been specially summoned having been thus concluded, according to the Charter no other business could legally be transacted, but regardless of the illegality of their action the meeting proceeded to discuss the Bill.

THE COCKPIT.

It is quite impossible to give a verbatim account of the proceedings. They were conducted as is usual, when Sir James Orichton Browne is in the chair, with a disregard of the ordinary rules of debate. Resolutions were put to the meeting without being proposed or seconded, and amendments were declared lost before the members had time to get up and sit down again. One thing was, however, a foregone conclusion, whatever the hon. officers objected to was lost, and indeed the solid phalanx of Chartered Nurses and other dependants voted according to the wishes of their masters like automatons, members who desired to speak in a perfectly orderly manner were shouted down, and, in short, the meeting reverted to the cockpit type for which the Association is notorious whenever a body of nurse-members dare to oppose the autocratic mandates of the hon. officers. At the beginning of the meeting members had on several occasions to demand their right to speak before they were permitted a hearing.

Mrs. Fenwick said she was perfectly aware that those who were standing for the best interests of the nurses would not carry their points in a packed meeting, but they wished to dissociate themselves from the policy of the Executive Committee. She protested against Clause 2, by which women without any training could be placed on the Register upon the recommendation of medical men. As an instance of the danger of this she alluded to the custom of one notorious surgeon in the West-end of London to utilise the services, for his patients, of women with a few months' training in a special hospital paying them a small salary, while not hesitating to charge and accept the fees of thoroughly qualified nurses for their unskilled labour. She was quite prepared to give the name if it was wanted. Mrs. Fenwick also referred to a disciplinary case recently dealt with by the General Medical Council, in which a medical man employed an untrained woman of known immoral character to nurse his patients.

She protested against the power being given to medical men to put these women on the Nursing Register. Educated nurses would never submit to it. Upon this statement being questioned by a somewhat noisy person present, Mrs. Fenwick referred her to the report of the case in the *British Medical Journal*.

"MEDICAL GENTLEMEN."

A member then treated the meeting to a panegyric upon the "medical gentlemen."

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.

Then came the burning question of the Constitution of the Central Board. In relation to the representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Miss Burr, seconded by Miss Clarke, proposed that this should be a nurse.

One member thought a nurse representative of the Association on the Board would be "a little out of place," and Miss Burr's resolution, which received considerable support, was ultimately declared lost.

The discussion on the representation of the nurses was fast and furious, but Dr. Bezly Thorne clearly stated what has always been known to be his attitude to the profession of nursing, namely, that it shall have no entirety, self-government, or independence. He said that the Board should be so composed that the medical men should have absolute control over the nurses, he further threatened that if a Bill were passed in which nurses were given power on their own Governing Body that medical men would not employ registered nurses, but would set to work to organise a body of nurses amenable to themselves. Medical men would not take a second place in the sick room. He gave the meeting to understand that the relations of doctors and nurses were those of masters and servants.

Miss Burr disputed that direct representation on their Governing Body affected the supremacy of the medical man in the sick room, a position which all well-trained nurses loyally accorded to him, but it was a question of personal and professional discipline, and this could only be maintained by the nurses themselves.

Mrs. Fenwick pointed out that in institutions where the control and discipline of nurses was in the hands of medical superintendents and not of the Matrons there was usually friction and lack of discipline.

Mrs. Fenwick further said that doctors were not in favour of the domineering policy of the Hon. Officers of the R.B.N.A., and although the medical members of the Association had been summoned to attend the meeting, they had failed to be present to support this Bill. The large body of the medical profession were not in sympathy with it and dissociated themselves from it.

The suggestion of the hon. officers that six medical men, instead of three as provided in the old Bill, should sit upon the Board having been agreed to, Miss Forrest proposed that the proportion of men to women, which was originally three to four, should be maintained, instead of the present proposal that there should be three men to two women. Miss Forrest said she was supported in these views by a large number of Matrons and Nurses, who had written to her on the subject. Amongst them were

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