

have thought it right to summon a special general meeting to consider the cause of this trouble, which had its origin in a letter from Nurse Barlow, gravely reflecting upon the officials of the Corporation, and which has led to an action at law. I think the time has come that all members should be made fully acquainted with recent events, and I feel confident that with a full knowledge of these, the Nurses will accord their complete approval of the action of their officers. I would beg you to weigh the facts well, to realise the grave importance of your decision, and that as members of a corporate body, it is in your power to forward or to injure lastingly the interests of your cause. I cannot conceal my disapproval nor the pain I experience at the disloyal course adopted by Miss Barlow and her advisers, which cannot fail seriously to cripple the resources of the Association, and divert them from their intended uses. I would also like to remind you of the time and strength, given not only by myself, but by all the officers loyally, ungrudgingly and unceasingly, given at much individual cost for no individual advantage or gain, and with no other motive than the welfare and prosperity of Nurses. The management of the Association is confided to the hands of a few, and in a large body such as ours is, there must necessarily be a divergence of opinion, but individual interests and grievances should always be subservient to the general good. We can never prosper unless the fullest confidence and trust are placed in the acting officers, who ought to be upheld and supported in their arduous exertions and labours. Unity is strength, and I feel certain that if you will all work loyally with me, and those who so faithfully devote their best energies to the great and good work of the Association, you will help to consolidate it, to increase its prosperity, and thereby to accomplish the objects for which the Association was founded, and the Charter granted. (Signed), Helena, President." (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: I would appeal to Dr. Norman Kerr, who knows what the conduct of public meetings is, and how difficult it will be to take divisions on three successive amendments—does he not see his way to adopt the resolution of the Executive, which is almost practically identical with his own?

Dr. NORMAN KERR: No, sir; but only for this reason, that in the original resolution you condemn one party. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: Then we will have to take the amendments in the inverse order to that in which they have been sent in. We will take Dr. Norman Kerr's amendment first.

Mr. FARDON: "That this meeting desires to record its strong disapproval of any member of the Association resorting to litigation with the Corporation, or inciting or encouraging a member to do so, until every possible means of settling the matter in dispute within the Corporation itself has been tried."

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: Did I understand that the Executive Committee have accepted that resolution?

The CHAIRMAN: No; I thought it was identical, but Dr. Norman Kerr points out that in one respect there is a difference. I wish the Nurses to understand that the three amendments will be put, and last of all the original resolution. I will first put Dr. Kerr's amendment. Those in favour of Dr. Kerr's amendment will hold up their hands. I should say the amendment is lost.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: You have not taken the votes against the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: I have.

A MEMBER: In that case I must say that the same hands have been held up for both.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment was lost by a considerable majority.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: The same hands were held up all through.

The CHAIRMAN: If Dr. Norman Kerr disputes my decision he is entitled to say so.

Dr. NORMAN KERR: Oh, no, I never dispute the decision of the chair.

Dr. BIERNACKI: I think it would be well to let the Nurses know that they can vote on every one of the amendments.

The CHAIRMAN: They may. I will ask the Secretary to read the next amendment.

Dr. FARDON: "That Miss Barlow's action in writing to a public newspaper, with reference to the non-delivery of her voting form, is not a matter of sufficient importance to call for a formal condemnation on the part of this meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and further that it is the opinion of this meeting that Miss Barlow brought her action against certain members of the Association in the absence of definite information on the point which greatly affected her interests." That is proposed by Dr. Biernacki, and seconded by Dr. Lovell Drage.

Dr. HUGH WOODS: I think it might simplify matters if I withdrew my amendment, if the seconder agrees, in favour of this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot do it without the consent of the meeting. Is it the feeling of the meeting that it should be done? [The meeting voted.]

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: There is only one amendment before the meeting. We have now come to a clear decision. We must either vote on the amendment or on the resolution. Now I ask for the names of those who vote for and against this to be taken down.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Dr. Bedford Fenwick will wait; it may not be necessary to do so. There will now be an amendment put and after that the original resolution, and those who are voting for the amendment will understand they are supporting Dr. Bedford Fenwick, (Disturbance and "No") and those who are voting for the resolution will support the Committee. (Loud cries of "No.") Now I will take the amendment. Those who are in favour of the amendment will vote. [The meeting voted.] Those who are against. [The meeting voted.]

Mr. LANKESTER: I wish to say one thing. I am going to support this amendment, but I am not supporting Dr. Bedford Fenwick.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: I rise to a point of order. I protest against any personal matter being introduced into this.

The previous speaker: Exactly.

The CHAIRMAN: I withdraw what I said. I understood that the amendment was proposed by Dr. Woods at Dr. Fenwick's suggestion, but I withdraw what I said.

Dr. HUGH WOODS: It was my own.

The CHAIRMAN: Those who are in favour of the amendment will vote again. [Some of those present stood up.]

A MEMBER: I rise to a point of order. I would ask those who are voting in favour of this

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)