

(4) That the Registration Board be the executive body, and consist of (a) the Representatives of the Privy Council; (b) the Representatives of the Medical profession; (c) the fifteen Direct Representatives; (d) the Representatives of the nine chief Nurse Training Schools in the United Kingdom, and, say, nine Representatives chosen from and by the remaining Hospital Representatives upon the Council.

(5) That full powers be given to the General Council to determine all details relating to Education, Registration, and Discipline.

(6) That two essential principles, at least, should be inserted in the Bill—(a) That a Trained Nurse is a person who attends upon the sick or upon women in labour, only under medical control and direction; (b) That a Trained Nurse is a person who has had three years' systematic instruction in a recognised Hospital or Infirmary.

(7) That provision be made to safeguard prescriptive rights and to register, during a "time of grace," those who have been *bona fide* engaged in the work of Nursing at the time of the passing of the Act, subject to conditions to be specified by the Council.

On the conclusion of Dr. Fenwick's speech, attention was called to the fact that none of the large Training Schools had sent any Representatives, and also that none of the Provincial Hospitals had raised any objections to the proposed Registration.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, who said she spoke as the Delegate of the Registered Nurses' Society, and she thought that her views on the subject of Registration were perhaps sufficiently well known. But before bringing some points before the meeting, she would like to ask the Chairman if at the meeting at St. Thomas's Hospital there were any representatives present of the Nurses themselves. The names of certain Secretaries and lay gentlemen, and even of a few matrons, had been given, but nothing was said as to what the Nurses, who were the persons chiefly interested, had to say on the matter. The profession had suffered much in the past from the difficulty of getting the *direct* opinion of the Nurses; after all, their opinion was deserving of the greatest consideration. She thought that all present would agree that the time had gone past when women should be simply legislated for. It was essential that they should be asked to give their views on matters affecting their interests.

She wished to say a few words on the subject of Registration from the industrial aspect, which was a very important one. She had acted for some time past as the Hon. Superintendent of the Registered Nurses' Society, to which no Nurse was admitted unless she had trained for three years, and had been registered by the Royal British Nurses' Association. She found that these valuable and highly qualified Nurses had to go out and compete in the open market with Probationers in their second year, from the London, Westminster and Guy's Hospitals, and from various other Nursing Institutions. For these workers frequently the same fees are asked as are obtained by really qualified Nurses, or else the Training Schools take somewhat lower fees—as they can well afford to

do—and thus they undersell the woman who has devoted long years to her training, and deprive the Probationer, whom they thus sent out, of the Hospital training which is her due. It would be seen that this system was radically wrong. Medical men objected very strongly to similar practices in their own profession. They refused to meet and co-operate with unprofessional men, and they certainly would not allow their Hospitals to mulct them out of their fees; but at present our Nurses have little or no voice in matters of vital importance to themselves. The public could not do without Nurses, and medical men were unanimous in their approval of the usefulness of thoroughly Trained Nurses, and as they certainly were entitled to be regarded as valuable servants of the State, they deserved the protection of the State.

Registration, so far, had been tentative and voluntary, and had been attainable by those of good moral character, and who had undergone a three years' Hospital training. This was satisfactory so far as it went, but it did not go far enough. What was needed was a minimum qualification and a uniform curriculum, and definite examinations. Nurses were not content that their education should be at the mercy of Hospital governors, who generally were actuated by excellent motives, but were often quite ignorant of the Nurses' needs. This was not the time to discuss whether Nurses should or should not be registered. Voluntary Registration was already in existence. The Nurses were now asking for it as a system legalised by Parliamentary enactment. The public were beginning to understand its protective power, and when the Bill was produced she hoped that it would contain and emphasise the principle of *direct* representation of the Nurses.

Mrs. Fenwick was asked how it was proposed to meet the expense involved in Registration. She answered that it would be covered, as with other professional Registers, by the fee which would be paid by the Nurses for Registration. She thought the Nurses would be quite willing to pay for the privilege and protection they would thus gain.

Dr. WOODCOCK spoke at some length on the subject of Midwifery Nurses.

Mr. BURDETT made a few remarks as to the distinction between a Nurse and a Midwife.

Miss WEDGWOOD said she represented the Royal British Nurses' Association, and she would like to point out that any Nurse who wished to register could do so, and if she remained unregistered it was by her own wish.

Dr. WOODCOCK, although he wished it to be understood he was in favour of Registration, made a suggestion that the question of the Registration of other classes of Nurses should be postponed, and instead, they should at once deal with the Registration of *Midwifery* Nurses.

Sir WALTER FOSTER pointed out that the meeting had been called to consider the question of registering all Nurses, and that it was imperative that the whole subject—not a side issue only—should be considered.

Miss JANE WILSON (Hon. Secretary of the Workhouse Infirmary Association) said she thought the

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