

resolution shall have been set out in writing, and posted in a registered letter at least three weeks previous to the said meeting. Well, the Bye-law in this case has not been complied with as the resolution, in this case, was not sent in a registered letter. The full text was certainly sent, but not in a registered letter, which is one of the provisions of the Bye-laws. The matter was brought before the Executive Committee, but they desired to put no impediment to this resolution coming before the meeting, and so the sanction of the Executive Committee was given to the placing of this resolution upon the Agenda paper. But, Sir, I must put it to the chair whether this resolution will be in order, and I must leave it to the Chairman and the meeting as to whether the resolution shall be put to the meeting in contravention of the regulations. The Executive Committee cannot take that responsibility upon themselves.

The Chairman: I have no doubt from the statement of the Medical Hon. Secretary that the Executive was right in the action it took in this matter; but, for my own part, I must say that, as the Resolution was not sent in a registered letter, I have to rule this resolution out of order.

Dr. Fenwick: I rise to a point of order. This is a resolution which reflects upon the Committee very considerably, and it contains statements which it is possible can be proved down to the ground, and the Executive Committee undoubtedly felt, when the question was brought forward, that it was right that this motion should be brought before the meeting. Now you, Sir, rule it out of order because you say the notice was not sent by a registered letter. I ask Miss Breay to state whether she registered her letter or not.

Miss Breay: I hold the Post Office receipt for the registration of the letter containing the text of the resolution, in my hand.

The Chairman (having examined the receipt): I am now able to tell the meeting definitely that this letter was not registered. This was not, in any sense of the word, a registered letter. I cannot pronounce it to be so. That is merely an express letter receipt showing that it was sent round by hand. It does not show that it was a registered letter at all. I must therefore adhere to my ruling, that the terms with regard to putting a resolution have not been complied with.

A Member: This seems to be somewhat unfortunate. May I ask whether it is not possible to suspend a Bye-law at this meeting?

The Chairman: We have no power to suspend a Bye-law.

Mr. George Brown: After having overridden the Charter, it seems a strange thing to quibble about a small matter of this kind.

The Chairman: A Bye-law cannot be altered except by a resolution of the Council.

Mr. Brown: I presume also that you have no power to alter the Charter. I should think that after having swallowed the whole animal you might also swallow this little morsel.

The Chairman: I am bound by the Bye-laws. This resolution was not sent by registered letter. The next business is a Resolution by Sir Dyce Duckworth.

Sir Dyce Duckworth: After the, perhaps, somewhat heated atmosphere in which we have been existing for the last few minutes, it gives me great pleasure to come forward now to propose a vote of thanks to our

President, Her Royal Highness the Princess Christian, for her conduct as President of the Association. I am sure you will agree with me that it is unnecessary for me to remind you of the good works done by our President, and the keen interest which she takes in the work of the Association, and the labour and thought which she has taken for us, and one might well think that this work constituted the occupation of her life; but when we know, as we all do, that it is only one of the matters of this kind in which she is interested, we can realise that her life is given up to good works. She has no interests other than those of charity to serve. We know how she works for this Association, and the interest which she feels in it. I can do no more than to ask this large meeting to receive this vote with acclamation.

A Member: I should like to say how much we deplore her absence to-day. No member of this Corporation can have been so self-denying in promoting our interests, and, but for her unflagging efforts we should never have obtained the position of a Chartered Association. I hope the future may afford us numbers of opportunities of realising how greatly we recognise her goodness in promoting the great cause which our beloved President has so much at heart. I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution.

Dr. Percival White then proposed a vote of thanks to the Honorary Officers, which was formally seconded and agreed to.

Dr. Bezly Thorne (who was greeted with some applause and much hissing): I thank the ladies and gentlemen for their cheers, and still more for their hisses. I have great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Leith, of Edinburgh, for his work in Scotland. We are happy in possessing so able a secretary.

Dr. Fenwick: I rise to a point of order. You have Sir, such a veneration for the Bye-laws that I would ask you if it is in order to propose resolutions which have not been sent in by registered letter three weeks before the meeting, as I presume this resolution has not.

The Chairman: That rule does not apply to proposing a vote of thanks.

Dr. Fenwick: Pardon me for reminding you of your ruling that it refers to all Resolutions proposed at an Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Fenwick: Before that vote is passed, I should like to ask if it is true that the Scottish Branch has only registered six Nurses in three years. If that is so, surely this vote of thanks must be regarded as a sheer farce.

Other votes of thanks having been passed, a vote of thanks was moved to the Chairman, Sir James Crichton Browne, and, having been duly seconded, was protested and voted against, but declared carried.

The Chairman: Ladies and gentlemen, whatever my shortcomings may be, I shall not be troubling you as chairman much longer. I have done my best to steer you through some stormy waters. I have shown my devotion at the present time by travelling 400 miles to this meeting. I thank you for the thanks which you have accorded me.

The meeting then terminated.

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