

turn back and rescind various resolutions definitely passed at a previous meeting, contrary to all custom and order, thus practically making these the Bye-Laws of the officials. (Applause, and derisive laughter.)

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK: I call for the minutes to prove or disprove what Dr. Woods has said. (Applause.)

The Officials made no reply and the minute book was not produced.

The Chairman rising to put the amendment to the Meeting, Miss Breay asked for the minute book which had been called for, to which the Chairman replied that it would be furnished if it were the wish of the Meeting.

Dr. WOODS: I agree with you, Sir; it is not desirable as it would not be to the credit of the Association. (Applause.)

Much disturbance followed, during which the amendment proposed by Dr. Wethered and seconded by Dr. Coupland was put to the Meeting by the Chairman, who declared it to be "carried by a large majority."

Dr. WETHERED then proposed what he described as an amendment to Mr. Fardon's original resolution, *viz.*:—"That the proposed new Bye-Laws as amended, appended hereto, be approved."

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: I hope this Meeting realizes what the proposed amendment is. We have a Resolution before us adopting *all* the proposed Bye-Laws, altering the entire constitution of the Association, which has served very well for ten years—(hear hear)—Bye-Laws which inflict considerable injustice upon the Members, which will take from the nurses very definite rights and privileges given to them by the existing Bye-Laws (hear, hear); which evade—deliberately evade—a well-known decision of Her Majesty's Privy Council (hear, hear); which give practically the absolute control over this Association to officials who have already most seriously mismanaged its affairs. (Hear, hear.) And the amendment which has been proposed to us, if it be carried, implies the acceptance by this Meeting, without any proper discussion, of the Resolution adopting all the new Bye-Laws. (Hear, hear.) I appeal to you, Sir, as Chairman, at any rate to protect this Association from the evident criticisms which will be made outside this room if we proceed with this all important business in such a manner as this. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: Any member of this Association will have the opportunity to move any amendment that he or she is disposed to do. I shall be perfectly ready to receive them. Nothing that has been done, or is going to be done, will interfere with the perfect and full consideration of all these Bye-Laws. (Applause.)

Dr. WOODS: The amendment is an amendment to the *main* Resolution, and after that is passed it prevents any discussion of details. As a matter of order, the amendment to this main Resolution should be immediately followed by the Resolution itself, as a substantive motion. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

The CHAIRMAN: The motion has not been put to the Meeting yet. I put the amendment to the Meeting. The whole resolution itself will not be taken for some time possibly. The amendment, seconded by Dr. Coupland, was then put to the Meeting, and declared to be "carried by a large majority."

Dr. BIERNACKI: The amendment which I desire to move covers those Bye-Laws which deal with the conditions under which Nurse Members of the Association will be admitted to it when the new Bye-Laws

are adopted. The Bye-Laws in question leave to the Executive Committee not merely the choice of those Members, but they even leave to the Committee the very definition of the term "nurse." (Hear, hear.) My interpretation of those Bye-Laws is that they would prevent the Members of the Association from choosing those with whom they may wish to associate. (Hear, hear.) The object of my amendment is to give the Members the right—and particularly the Nurse Members, as they are in the majority—the right of choosing those with whom they may wish to associate. I should like to lay particular stress upon the fact that there is nothing contentious about my amendment. It should commend itself to every Member of the Association who is anxious that strife should cease, and that any possible cause of future disagreement should be put aside if my amendment were passed.

The CHAIRMAN: Read your amendment.

Dr. BIERNACKI: I propose to speak to it first.

The CHAIRMAN: Be good enough to read your amendment now.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK: I rise to order, Sir. I submit that the speaker is in perfect order in speaking to any part of the business before the Meeting, and that if he proposes an amendment he can give its wording at any time most convenient to himself. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: Read your Amendment now.

Dr. BIERNACKI: If, Sir, you rule me out of order for not reading my amendment at once, I will read it. If it is a matter of mere feeling, I shall not assent. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: I do not understand what your point is. (Oh!)

Dr. BIERNACKI: If the Meeting desires it, I will read my amendment now:—"That the proposed Bye-Laws 7 and 26 be replaced by a single Bye-Law as follows:—

"The following persons shall be qualified to be elected as Members of the Corporation: Any duly qualified medical practitioner, any matron or nurse who can produce such evidence of hospital or infirmary training as shall be in conformity with the standard. Such standard of professional education shall in the first instance be adopted at a Special General Meeting of the Corporation, and shall be subject to alteration at any time by the vote of the majority of Members present at a Special General Meeting summoned in accordance with Bye-Law 11." The proposed Bye-Laws require that any matron, sister, or nurse seeking election as a Member of the Corporation shall produce such proofs of professional training as the Executive Committee shall require. The Executive Committee shall keep a Register of such nurses as are Members of the Corporation.

I was speaking to the effect that there is nothing contentious about my amendment, and nothing personal, and I want to point out by way of illustration that if it were passed and became the law, there would be by no means such an outburst of indignation and criticism as that which followed the proposal to admit asylum attendants to the Association. (Loud applause.) The members would meet, vote, and have the whole matter settled beyond argument in a single afternoon. (Applause.) Let me now direct your attention to Bye-Law 7.

"The following persons shall be qualified for election as Members of the Corporation:—Any duly qualified Medical Practitioner as defined by the Medical Acts

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