

profession, that it should have the sympathy, not only of the great training schools of the Metropolis, but also of those in Scotland and in Ireland. It appeared to him that there was one difference between the institutions that they proposed to put upon the list, and those institutions, the representatives of which had to be elected. He took it that the reason for having triennial retirements of a third of the elected matrons was to afford an opportunity to those institutions which had not been represented before. Were there a list of what he might call *ex-officio* institutions of such magnitude that they could not put all the representatives upon the Council there would be something to be said in favour of Dr. Bezly Thorne's amendments that a third of them should retire every year in order to allow those other institutions, which were not represented before, to have a representative on the Council. But the practical effect of this amendment would be that, supposing they had thirty *ex-officio* institutions on the list, they would only get a representation of twenty every year; ten of those institutions would be disfranchised. These acting matrons represented all that was best and most progressive, and formed a nucleus of stability for them to fall back upon. It would be utterly inconsistent with all that he had ever said to support Dr. Bezly Thorne's amendments. He meant to do all he could to get these matrons permanently on the Council. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then put the amendment to the Meeting, which rejected it.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK observed that there were only four votes in its favour.

Miss DE PLEDGE then moved an amendment to Bye-Law 21, with the object of defining the week-day upon which the Executive Committee should always meet.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK, in seconding it, said that under the extraordinary Bye-Law proposed to them the officials would have power to summon a meeting anywhere they liked, at any time they liked, and with any sort of notice. They might even summon a meeting in the Orkney Isles to alter the most important details in the working of the Association. There must be some extraordinary reason why the officials desired to obtain such absolute power over the meetings of the governing body. (Applause.)

Mr. FARDON said it would be very inconvenient to many of the Members of the Association if Miss De Pledge's amendment was adopted. The Bye-Law amended as Miss De Pledge proposed could only be altered by a reference to the Privy Council. He hoped that Miss De Pledge would not press her amendment.

Miss DE PLEDGE said she was unable to accede to the suggestion as she proposed the amendment as a matter of conscience.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK spoke in support of the amendment, saying that all public bodies, such as County Councils, Vestries, etc., had appointed days on which to meet.

The amendment was put to the Meeting and declared to be lost.

Sir JAMES CRICHTON BROWNE moved an amendment to Bye-Law 15, that the following names be added to the list of *ex-officio* Members of the Council:—The President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; the President of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland; the President of the

Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; the Master of the Society of Apothecaries. He thought that the heads of these important bodies should be allowed to participate more largely than they had heretofore done in the success and prosperity which awaited the Association. (Applause.)

This amendment was seconded and carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any more amendments?

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK moved that Bye-Law 1 be deleted on the ground that the Association had no power under the Charter to appoint a Patron except as an Hon. Officer.

Dr. H. WOODS seconded the amendment, which, on being put to the Meeting, was declared lost by a large majority.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK moved that Bye-Law 2 be deleted on the ground that the Association had no power under the Charter to appoint Vice-Presidents unless they were Hon. Officers.

Dr. H. WOODS seconded the amendment, amid considerable hooting and interruption.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK rose to order and complimented the officials on the result of their efforts, that for the first time in her experience nurses attempted to hoot down a medical man, and one who held a distinguished position in his profession. She pointed out that this want of discipline and dignity was not likely to end within the Association.

Bye-Law 3 was then submitted.

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK called attention to the fact that it practically gave the Association power to remove its Vice-Presidents, who had hitherto been, and should be, permanent officers. He therefore moved that it should be deleted.

Amid considerable disturbance Bye-Law 3 was put to the Meeting and declared to be carried.

Bye-Law 4 was then put to the Meeting and carried, after a protest from Dr. Woods as to the confusion it would introduce into the definition of Hon. Officers.

Bye-Laws 5 and 6 were passed without opposition.

On Bye-Law 7—Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK moved an amendment that this Bye-Law be deleted. If adopted, he pointed out that the Bye-Law would introduce into the Association two entirely different classes of nurses; those matrons who had not been able to obtain registration as trained nurses, and those sisters and nurses who were sufficiently well trained to become registered. This definitely inferred that the matrons who joined the Association might be less efficient than the sisters and nurses; a position which would be very detrimental to hospital discipline, and certainly dangerous for the Association to adopt. The Association had undertaken to protect the public. By admitting to membership persons who could not be registered, the Association would degrade its membership and deceive the public. (Applause.) In fact the Association would then become a source of danger to the sick.

Dr. HUGH WOODS seconded the amendment, which was then put to the meeting and declared to be lost.

Bye-Law 8 was agreed to without opposition.

On Bye-Law 9—

Dr. BEDFORD FENWICK said this Bye-Law was most remarkably framed and self-contradictory. According to the Charter, every Bye-Law must go to the Privy Council to be confirmed. This Bye-Law provided that the subscription of members should be so-and-so, and then it went on to say: "The Corporation in General Meeting may from time to time alter and

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