

be entered on the minutes, Sir Dyce Duckworth, at the request of H.R.H. Princess Christian, took the chair, and said he would now call upon all those present, each of whom had had a copy of the Royal Charter sent to them, to state their opinions upon it. It seemed to him that the most important question to decide was, whether it would be desirable to petition for a Royal Charter at once, or whether this course should be deferred to some future time.

Dr. Matthews Duncan said he thought he spoke for a great many, when he suggested that the name of the Association should include Midwives. The Midwives felt there was a great distinction between Nurses and themselves. Why, therefore, not call it the British Nurses and Midwives' Association?

Dr. Sidney Coupland said that he should think that the word Nurse included Midwives and all other kind of Nurses, and if they had to include the word Midwife in the name of the Association they would probably in time have to introduce some other class of the Nursing community into the name.

Miss Wood said that this question had come before the Members two or three times, and she thought that the alteration of the name would not be popular with the main body of the Association. The term Nurse includes all those who attend the sick, and before altering the name it would be necessary to take the general opinion of the Members on the matter.

Dr. Heywood Smith pointed out that on page 9 of the Royal Charter the words, "or total removal of *her* name," should read, "or total removal of *his or her* name." He also said that he should certainly advise pushing forward with the Royal Charter, as he was strongly of the opinion that there should be no delay whatever. The Obstetrical Society had been trying their utmost for some time to obtain powers for the Registration of Midwives, and it was of the utmost importance that the Association should get a Royal Charter at an early date to do something to prevent the many evils which now went unchecked.

Sir Dyce Duckworth said: I certainly should like to have heard some opinions on the desirability of pressing forward with the application for the Royal Charter. I, myself, would not advise this course, and I think I speak for many others who have the best interests of the Association at heart. There is not the slightest necessity for us to seek immediately for this Charter; the time has not yet come for it. The first thing is to show what we can do, and thus gain confidence from others and knowledge for ourselves. We should, I think, at once open a Register for Nurses and also one for Midwives and Male Nurses, and having made

good progress in this way, we should not find it so difficult to overcome any opposition which might arise.

Mr. Frederick Gant said, for his part, he could quite see the desirability and wisdom of delaying, at least for a time, the application for a Charter and opening their Registers at once.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick said that the Executive Committee did not recommend that the Charter should be pressed for. It had been so proposed, but was not carried, as it was thought it would be better to leave the General Council quite free to do as it chose. In fact, it was the general feeling among the Executive Committee that the Register should be formed first, and then ask for a Charter to incorporate both, as it was seen that it would hardly do to ask the Privy Council to incorporate a Register which did not exist.

Mr. Brudenell Carter said he would propose a resolution which would bring the discussion to a definite issue:—"That the Executive Committee be empowered to take such steps as may seem most advisable to open a Register for Nurses and Midwives at once; to enter upon these Registers respectively, without payment, but under such conditions as may be necessary, the names of those Nurses and Midwives who are Members of this Association; to draw up Regulations for the admission of future names to the Registers; and to bring these regulations before the next meeting of this Council." Mr. Carter said it appeared to him that, if this plan could be carried into effect, they would be able to go before the Privy Council with a Register asking to be incorporated. It was certain, if this scheme of Registration was carried out, that the Association would grow in the estimation of the public, and then they could go up and say, "Here is our Register, on which we are prepared to stand or fall," and then they were hardly likely to be refused.

Dr. Bezly Thorne briefly seconded this resolution, and it was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Dr. Heywood Smith said he thought that it was quite worth consideration as to whether a fee should be charged for Registration.

Dr. Fenwick explained that the Association had pledged itself to register all Members of the Association free, and there could be no doubt that this promise must be fulfilled.

Miss Mollett asked if the Charter was to be pressed for.

Dr. Fenwick said that had already been decided, as it had been carried that a Register should be formed first.

Dr. Heywood Smith said he did not think that the fact of establishing a Register need cause much

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