

"Nurses will collect their own fees, and on receipt shall pay to the Lady Superintendent not more than 10 per cent. thereof, which percentage shall form a common fund to meet the expenses of management."

This is a most serious omission, as the terms under which the nurses work should be clearly defined. The only reference to income under the draft Constitution is:—

3. "The income and the property of the Co-operation, whencesoever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Co-operation as set forth in this Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the members of the Co-operation," &c.

The words "the property of" are superfluous.

In our opinion, the surplus income of the Co-operation should be invested for the benefit of the nurse-members. The latter part of the above regulation from "no portion" onwards should therefore be deleted.

WINDING-UP.

4. This paragraph runs:—

"If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Co-operation there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever or sums of money at the credit of any special fund or funds created as aforesaid, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Co-operation, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Co-operation; or to some fund for the benefit of nurses to be determined by the Co-operation, or by the remaining members thereof for the time being."

In our view the word "not" before "be paid" should be deleted. The surplus funds, in the event of the winding-up of the Co-operation, should be divided amongst the ordinary members as defined below—that is, the nurses. The clause should therefore run: "the same shall be paid or distributed among the ordinary members of the Co-operation," and the remainder of the paragraph should be deleted.

MEMBERS.

It is proposed that the Co-operation shall consist (1) of "Ordinary Members," who are the nurses admitted to the Co-operation; and (2) "Honorary Members," comprising "Contributors to the Funds of the Co-operation, and members of the medical profession and others interested in the Co-operation who may be elected at the Annual Meeting."

The words "and others interested in the Co-operation" should be deleted. If contributors to the funds are admitted to Hon. Membership, then the minimum contribution qualifying for such membership should be defined. The contribution should be a handsome one. Personally, we always object to persons buying power in women's associations with hard cash.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

Provision is made that a General Meeting of the Co-operation shall be held each year in the month of November . . . to receive the Annual Report, elect office-bearers, and transact any other business. The quorum proposed is "ten members, Ordinary or Honorary, personally present." If the quorum be fixed at ten, which in our opinion is far too small, then the minimum number of nurse-members should be defined in order to give the nurses a voice in the

management of their affairs. The question of proxies of course suggests itself, but voting by proxy, without having heard the debate on the subject to be voted on, is not, in our opinion, a satisfactory method.

The Executive Committee may, whenever they think fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting. Such a meeting is also to be convened on a requisition, in writing, by any four or more members of the Co-operation. It is to be noted that the Executive, as well as requisitionists, should be required to state the object of such a meeting. The regulation should, therefore, run—"The Executive Committee may . . . convene an Extraordinary General Meeting" for a specified object. In the case of both the Executive and the requisitionists the meeting should be convened at the expense of the Co-operation.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS.

Under this heading, paragraph 16 and the latter part of paragraph 17 should be deleted.

These paragraphs are as follows:—

16. "At any General Meeting a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has been carried, and an entry made to that effect in the book of proceedings of the Co-operation, shall be sufficient evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution."

17. "Minutes shall be made in books, provided for the purpose, of resolutions and proceedings of General Meetings, and any such minutes, if signed by any person purporting to be a Chairman of the meeting to which they relate, or by any person present thereat, and appointed by the Executive Committee to sign the same in his place, shall be received as evidence of the facts therein stated without further proof."

Such regulations, as many Nurses have learnt in the past, carefully condone any irregularities which may be perpetrated by a Chairman, or by the Executive Committee. At any rate, they are palpably open to this construction.

VOTES OF MEMBERS.

18. Every registered member of the Co-operation has one vote. In view, however, of the assertion that at the recent meeting a motion of the Executive was supported by the votes of paid officials, it appears advisable to state in the rules that no paid official should be entitled to vote.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

19. The regulation defining the constitution of the Executive Committee provides that it shall consist of at least sixteen ladies and gentlemen in the following proportions:—

Four medical practitioners.

Eight ladies and gentlemen not connected with the medical profession.

Four registered nurses.

An additional *ex-officio* member is the Hon. Treasurer.

The nurses of the Co-operation should carefully note this regulation. They should certainly have much more liberal representation on their Executive Committee.

POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The following regulation is very confused, and might well be deleted:—

21. "The Executive Committee may exercise all

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