

The two Chartered Bodies of Nurses, the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute and the Royal British Nurses' Association, are each accorded the right to elect a representative.

A most important principle embodied in the Bill is the right accorded to the persons governed—i.e., the Registered Nurses—to select and elect ten representatives to sit on the Council. Thus it is to a considerable extent elective, instead of being composed mainly of Academic nominees. As such it must appeal periodically to the electorate, a form of Constitution calculated to produce the most healthy and progressive tone in the Governing Body.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EDUCATIONAL BODIES.

5. The six representatives of educational bodies shall be appointed by the Privy Council.

The only body with authority to discriminate between the diverse claims of the Nurse-Training Schools to representation is the Privy Council, and the appointment of Representatives of these Educational Bodies is accordingly placed in its hands.

ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES.

6. The aforesaid elected nurses, who shall be termed "Direct Representatives," shall be elected in the first instance by the votes of such nurses as have been registered under the provisions of this Act before the first day of January, 190—, and in future such elected members shall be elected by the whole body of registered nurses in such manner as the General Nursing Council, with the approval of His Majesty's Privy Council, shall from time to time determine.

7. The members of the General Nursing Council shall each be elected and appointed for a term of five years, and shall be capable of re-election and re-appointment, and any member may at any time resign his or her office by letter addressed to the President of the said Council, and upon the death or resignation of any member of the said Council, some other person shall be constituted a member of the said Council in his or her place in the manner hereinbefore provided; but shall vacate office at the time the member whose place he or she has taken would have vacated office; but it shall be lawful for the Council during such vacancy to exercise the powers hereinafter mentioned.

8. The appointed members of the General Nursing Council shall hold their first meeting within three months from the commencement of this Act, in such place and at such time as one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State shall appoint, and shall make such rules and regulations as to Section 11. I. (d) as to them shall seem expedient, which rules and regulations shall remain in force until altered at any subsequent meeting; and when such rules have been sanctioned by His Majesty's Privy Council, nurses who are

eligible under the said rules shall be forthwith registered.

9. In the absence of any rule or regulation as to the summoning a meeting of the General Council, or in any case of urgency, it shall be lawful for the President to summon a meeting at such time and place as to her shall seem expedient by letter addressed to each member; and at every meeting, in the absence of the President, some other member to be chosen from the members present shall act as President; and all acts of the General Council shall be decided by the votes of the majority of the members present at any meeting, the whole number present not being less than eight; and at all such meetings the President for the time being shall, in addition to her vote as a member of the Council, have a casting vote, in case of an equality of votes; and the General Nursing Council shall have power to appoint an Executive Committee out of their own body, of which the quorum shall not be less than three, and to delegate to such Committee such of the powers and duties vested in the Council as the Council may see fit.

6. We have defined the importance of these Direct Representatives in a previous column.

7. The term for which the General Nursing Council has been elected has been fixed at five years, as it was considered that this period was none too long in which to lay the foundations of and organise a legally constituted profession, and subsequently to secure continuity of business.

9. This section provides for the appointment of an Executive Committee, which presumably will be a small and active body authorised to deal with routine business.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS.

10. The General Council shall appoint one of their number as Treasurer. They shall also appoint a Registrar, who shall act as Secretary of the General Council; the General Council shall also appoint so many clerks and servants as shall be necessary for the purposes of this Act; and every person so appointed by the Council shall be removable at the pleasure of the Council, and shall be paid such salary as the Council shall from time to time think fit.

11. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to keep a Register of trained nurses, which shall be called "the Nursing Register," correct in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and the Orders and Regulations of the General Nursing Council, and to erase the names of all registered persons who shall have died, and from time to time to make the necessary alterations in the addresses or qualifications of the persons registered under this Act.

The Registrar performs her work in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and the Orders and Regulations of the General Nursing Council. Their professional Register is therefore controlled by the Registered Nurses themselves. The importance of the right thus accorded to them cannot be over-estimated.

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