

College of Nursing, with which, of course, the ultimate decision lies, and I write with the greater readiness as I cannot but feel that the differences between us are matters rather of expediency and policy than of fundamental principles. Both parties are out for State Registration; it is merely a question how to get it with a minimum of friction and delay.

To consider the amendments of the Central Committee to the Fourth Draft of the Council's Bill *seriatim* :—

*Clause 5 (1).* The difference here is in the main a difference as to the mode of appointment of the First Council. The Central Committee's Bill excludes names and suggests a list of appointing Bodies, the Council's Bill proposes to set out the actual names of the Members of the First General Nursing Council. It is a question which method is more likely to conciliate opposition and facilitate the passing of the Bill.

Against the Clause as proposed by your Committee the following criticisms at once suggest themselves :—

1. No representation of Poor Law Authorities or Poor Law Nurses.
2. No representation of Scotland or Ireland.
3. The difficulty of choosing six out of the whole of the Nurse-Training Schools of the country without exciting jealousy amongst the excluded.
4. The cast-iron rigidity of the proposal and the certainty that in Parliament objections would be raised which might either wreck the Bill or result in a Council of quite unwieldy dimensions.

On behalf of the Council's proposal to set out the names of the First General Nursing Council, I urge :—

1. That it is more difficult in Parliament to object to the name of an individual than to a list of Nominating Bodies.
2. That Members are more likely to view favourably a Bill for Registration if they know of whom the First General Council is actually to consist than if they are asked to entrust the nomination of it to Bodies of whom they know little or nothing.

Here, of course, I ought perhaps to repeat that there is no intention on my part of receding from the position I have taken up all along that the Central Committee, which has done so much for State Registration of Nurses, should have just as many nominees on the First Council as the College has, and I should be very glad if the Central Committee would empower certain of its Members in whom it has confidence to enter into informal consultation with myself and a few Members of the Council of the College, so as to start right away upon settling a provisional list for the First Council. I fancy that if we once got to work round a table many of the difficulties anticipated would be found practically to solve themselves, and that we could get out a Council which would command the confidence of the Profession, of the public, and of the Houses of Parliament.

*Clause 6.* There are two differences between the Clause as drafted by the Council of the College and the Central Committee respectively. The Council says "within three years," the Central Committee, "within two years."

As a matter of fact the Council had originally put "two years" but it was pointed out that a probationer enters her training school normally for a three years' term of service, with certain regulations as to examinations and curriculum, which will very likely be disturbed when the Registration Bill becomes law. It would be unfair to bring her under these new regulations in the course of a training begun under other conditions, and hence the three years' grace to date from the passing of the Act.

The other difference amounts to this—that under the Clause as drafted by the Central Committee all registration of existing nurses would be stopped as soon as ever the Bill passed, until the First Council had made rules under Clause 4 (iv) "regulating the admission to the Register of persons already in practice as trained nurses at the passing of this Act." The Clause as drafted by the Council merely keeps the work of registration continuing on the old lines until modified by rules made under the Act.

As all "rules" have to be approved by the Privy Council and laid before Parliament, some delay is pretty sure to occur, and thus the Register of Nurses, unless registration goes on automatically in the interval, will be less complete than it need be when the nurses elect the permanent Council.

*Clause 7.* The difference here seems to lie in the use by the Council of the words, "Nurse-Training School or Schools," rather than the words, "Hospital or Hospitals." The former were approved because the Bill deals with Hospitals as places of education, as "Training Schools," in fact. Further, distinctions are often made between Hospitals and Poor Law Infirmarys. Moreover, the custom of the North Country speaks of infirmarys rather than hospitals; and finally, the Clause as drafted by the Central Committee requiring a Nurse to have had a training under a definite curriculum prescribed by the Council in the *wards* of a hospital, would, strictly interpreted, exclude from the curriculum the time put in by her in the Casualty or Out-Patient Department—which is clearly not meant.

*Clause 4 (i).* Here again, as in Clause 5 (i), the question is largely one of expediency. The Council of the College has been very strongly advised by their Solicitors and Parliamentary Counsel to lighten the Bill as much as possible by confining its provisions to main principles rather than to elaborating details, and the main principle we are interested in is that the nurses should appoint two-thirds of the permanent Council, and this, as you are aware, is laid down definitely in 4 (i) (a).

The proportionate representation of their interests may very well be left, I think, to the First Council, the attempt to define how it should

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