

10. New Bye-Law 26 defines the procedure to be taken in the expulsion of a nurse from the Corporation. As such expulsion might involve her professional ruin, Your Petitioners submit that it is important to compare the procedure now in force with that contemplated under the new Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws.

11. Under the present Charter the General Council has "power to expel from the Corporation or suspend from Membership" for certain specified reasons, viz., "moral delinquency or professional incompetence." The interests of the accused are safeguarded by the provision that at least 25 members of the Council must be present at the meeting hearing the charge, and not less than three-fourths of those present and voting shall vote for such expulsion or suspension. Further, before such expulsion or suspension takes effect, the member concerned is entitled to appeal to a General Meeting of the Corporation summoned for the purpose, so that she has the right to be judged by all her fellow members.

It is also provided in the existing Bye-Laws (Bye-Law XXVI) that the Executive Committee shall have the power to remove the name of any nurse from the List of "fit and proper persons to act as nurses" (Bye-Law XXV) maintained by the Corporation (this List being distinct from the Roll of Members). The procedure in this case is that the meeting of the Executive must have been specially summoned for the purpose, the quorum must be fifteen, and a resolution to remove the name must be passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting. There is an appeal in this case to the next meeting of the General Council, whose decision is final.

12. Under the proposed Bye-Laws, the only provision in this connection is for the "Expulsion of Members" and for the removal from the Register of Nurses of any person whom the Council may deem unworthy to remain a member of the Corporation. It is therefore not contemplated, apparently, to keep any Register of Nurses apart from the Register of Members of the College of Nursing.

13. The authority suggested under the proposed Bye-Laws as that to be entrusted with power to remove the name of a nurse from the Register of Nurses is the Council (Bye-Law 26), and there is no appeal from its decisions, though an accused nurse may appear before it by agent or in person. The quorum at a meeting of the Council to be specially summoned to consider the matter must be twelve, and at least two-thirds of those present and voting must vote for the removal of the name.

Your Petitioners very earnestly point out that by the Supplemental Charter and Bye-Laws, the nurses would thus be placed entirely at the mercy of the Council without any chance of appeal, and they submit, therefore, that it would be a grave injustice to the Nurse Members of the Association to rescind, as is suggested, the safeguards afforded to them by the present Charter and Bye-Laws.

14. Bye-Law 13, defining the powers of the Council, provides that "until otherwise determined" (that is to say, until the Privy Council sanctions some new Bye-Law), "five members of the Council shall form a quorum." As it is suggested that the Council should have the most autocratic powers, Your Petitioners submit that it is a provision unique and possibly dangerous to the members of the Association that *three* persons should form the majority of a meeting, capable of exercising these powers over an Association of some thousands of women nurses.

Your Petitioners very earnestly submit that the request for such powers for such a quorum is sufficient to illustrate the spirit in which the new Bye-Laws have been drawn and in which, if granted by the Privy Council, those Bye-Laws would be carried into effect.

15. It is provided (Bye-Law 8) that a Special General Meeting of the Corporation, or a Special Meeting of the Council, may at any time be summoned:

(1) By order of the President;

(2) By order of the Council; and that

(3) A Special General Meeting of the Corporation shall be summoned by the Chairman of the Council upon a requisition in writing signed by at least one hundred Members of the Corporation, and by not less than one-fourth of the Members of the Council then entitled to be present and vote at such meeting.

As the members would never be likely to desire a Special General Meeting, unless they were gravely dissatisfied with the conduct of their business by the Council, and as one-fourth of the Council are most unlikely, under such circumstances, to requisition a Special General Meeting to enquire into their own conduct, Your Petitioners submit that the members would be practically prohibited from exercising a right nominally given to them, as to the members of similar associations. Under the 1893 Bye-Laws, fifty members might requisition a Special General Meeting. In grave circumstances, such a requisition was actually made, but the Hon. Officers neglected to call the meeting, and legal proceedings had to be taken. Under the 1898 Bye-Laws, initiated by the Hon.

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