

first from the Ministry of Labour to the Minister of Health, and transmitted by him for the consideration of the Council, in regard to the provisions of the Hours of Employment Bill as they affect nurses, which had already been before the Council at its meetings on July 30th and September 23rd, and its consideration postponed. The Chairman reported that two Conferences of the professional members of the Council had already been held to consider the letter. He suggested that it was advisable to defer discussion of the letter to a later stage in the proceedings.

Consideration of a letter from the General Nursing Council for Ireland was similarly postponed.

RESOLUTION.

MISS MAUDE MACCALLUM then proposed the following Resolution standing in her name:—

“That during the discussion of the Rules, which are still *sub judice*, the press be excluded.”

In moving the Resolution Miss MacCallum said that no one could be more anxious than she was that the press should be admitted to meetings of the Council. But after the last meeting two papers gave extracts from the Rules which were still *sub judice* and had not received the assent of the Minister of Health. It was an act of discourtesy to the Minister, which the Council should not permit to occur again.

THE CHAIRMAN said that under the Resolution of the Council of July 16th it was open to any member of the Council to move that it should sit *in camera*.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD seconded the Resolution. She thought grave misunderstanding would arise if the Rules were published prematurely. In her own office, after the publication of the papers referred to by Miss MacCallum she had had evidence that such misunderstanding had arisen. No interpretation of the Council's decisions was published, and this should be done when the Rules were made public.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, in reply to a remark by the Chairman, said that she should decline to move the Amendments to the Rules which were *sub judice*, placed on the Agenda in her name, in the presence of the press.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

NURSES' HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT.

MISS S. A. VILLIERS then moved that the Minister of Labour's letter in reference to Nurses' Hours of Employment should also be considered *in camera*. This was seconded by Miss Alice Cattell.

DR. E. W. GOODALL said no argument had been advanced for the adoption of this course. He would like further information before he voted one way or the other.

THE CHAIRMAN said that as suggested at the meeting held on the previous afternoon there were many controversial points in connection with the question. Moreover, the Hours of Employment Bill which they would have to consider in connection with the letter would be a hypothetical Bill, as the one already in print was not the one which would be introduced into the House of Commons next Session. It was going to be amended. By the courtesy of the Minister a copy of the Bill had been supplied privately to him, and there were certain points which he would feel justified in presenting to the Council, but, if published to the world, the Council would be in the position of having publicly discussed a Bill which was not before the House of Commons.

There was a diversity of opinions on the subject, and the members of the Council who had discussed it on the previous day were not in possession of the Draft Bill. The Council could, if it chose, discuss the Bill already in print in the presence of the press.

SIR T. JENNER VERRALL said that at present things were in a very initial stage indeed. He would like to discuss the question when the nurses had—he would not say fought it out among themselves—but decided what they wished to support. Then those who wished to be instructed could be.

THE CHAIRMAN then briefly recapitulated the contents of the letter from the discussion of which it was proposed, by the present resolution, that the press should be excluded. It was a letter from Mr. Brock on behalf of the Minister of Health, transmitting a letter from the Ministry of Labour in regard to the provisions of the Hours of Employment Bill as they affected Nurses, and inviting the Council to consider a scheme submitted to the Minister of Labour by the College of Nursing, Ltd., though not limiting it to the consideration of that scheme.

MISS MACCALLUM considered it important that the letter should be discussed in the presence of the press.

Upon the Resolution being put to the vote that the letter should be considered *in camera* the voting was 18 for the Resolution and 4 against it.

At the request of the Chairman the press then withdrew.

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