

no insinuation would be made of the inferiority of Cottage Nurses.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the wording of the reply sent to the General Nursing Council for Scotland should be that the Council does not see its way to form a Register of Cottage Nurses unless they conform to the Council's regulations, or alternatively that the Council do not see their way to admit Cottage Nurses to the Register.

MRS. FENWICK said this appeared to leave a loophole. Why not state that the Council do not approve of a Supplementary Register of Cottage Nurses?

MISS SWISS proposed that the wording should be "That the Council are not in favour of a Supplementary Register of Cottage Nurses." This was accepted by Mrs. Fenwick, and agreed to by the Council.

RESOLUTION I.

Publicity Advocated.

MISS S. A. VILLIERS then moved: "That the consideration of the letter and enclosures from the Minister of Labour be not further considered *in camera*."

MISS COX DAVIES seconded, and expressed the opinion that it was infinitely better that the information should be given to the Press.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP asked whether there was any objection to the reporters always being present and being told what not to report.

The CHAIRMAN said that it had already been decided that all the proceedings of the Council should be in public unless the Council otherwise decided.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD also supported Miss Villiers' resolution, which was carried.

RESOLUTION II.

A New Bill Advocated.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE then moved: "That the Minister of Health be asked to introduce a Bill to regulate the hours of nurses employed in Hospitals or other Institutions for the care of the sick."

In moving the Resolution, Dr. Bedford Pierce said that he was driven into rather an unfortunate position at the last meeting, inasmuch as he had not seen the last Bill drafted by the Minister of Labour. He had then voted against nurses being included in the Bill. Since then he had had an opportunity of seeing it. They were all most anxious that the conditions of service of nurses should be improved, and he did not consider that their emoluments were commensurate with their services, and their hours of work should be reduced; he was not sure that they should not be reduced to below 48 hours. There were serious difficulties in the Bill which should receive serious consideration. The economic conditions were so serious that the Nursing Profession might suffer; for patients could not afford to pay more than they did at present. He thought that the Minister of Health should be asked to make an enquiry, and he moved the Resolution standing in his name "that the Minister of Health be asked to introduce a Bill to regulate the hours of nurses

employed in Hospitals or other institutions for the care of the sick."

MISS M. E. SPARSHOTT seconded the motion. It was essential that the hours of nurses should be shortened, and they needed support in dealing with their committees on the subject of nursing.

MISS A. DOWBIGGIN enquired whether the Minister of Health had been approached on the subject. It was proposed to place powers in his hands, in connection with voluntary hospitals, which at present he did not possess.

MISS LLOYD STILL expressed sympathy with the Resolution.

MISS VILLIERS said that hospital committees, in view of the probable passing of the Hours of Employment Bill, had already shortened their nurses hours of duty. In many instances they would be only too glad to extend them again if nurses were taken out of the Bill.

MISS COX DAVIES said she was absolutely in agreement that the hours of labour should be regulated, and she thought that Committees were only too anxious to do what was right for the nurses.

SIR JENNER VERRALL pointed out that nurses are at present in the Hours of Employment Bill. If the Council did not consider this desirable they had to convince the Minister of Labour that they should be taken out of the Bill and convince the Minister of Health that he should bring in a Bill making provision for the same thing in another way. As the Minister of Health would be inclined to take the line of least resistance, it would be necessary to convince him that it would do nurses great harm if left in the present Bill. They would thus have to draft a letter to the Minister of Labour stating their reasons why nurses should come out of the Bill, and a letter to the Minister of Health stating why they should be provided for in a separate Bill.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD said that nurses had waited thirty years for their Registration Bill. The regulation of nurses' hours on duty, and the government of their conditions of work was an economic, and consequently a very controversial, question.

MISS E. MAUDE MACCALLUM said the proposal was to put the whole power into the hands of one man, whose department was a great employer of nurses. The autocracy it was proposed to create might be a benevolent one, but it was an autocracy.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP said that 21,000 nurses were committed to this policy.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that the 21,000 members of the College of Nursing, Ltd. [the number was officially given at the meeting of College members on November 4th as 19,000.—Ed.] were not committed to the policy of removal from the Bill of the Minister of Labour. The Council might be. The nurses had not been consulted on this point. There was difference of opinion on the question, that nurses should be excluded altogether from the Hours of Employment Bill prepared by the Minister of Labour, and that the Minister of Health should be asked to

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