

the purpose of gain, but only to those in private houses; therefore nurses employed in nursing homes could not claim exemption on that score.

Inspectors under the Act had a right to enter any premises, other than private houses, at all reasonable times, and examine alone, or in the presence of any other person, any employed persons on the premises.

Miss Breay concluded by calling attention to the Report of the Committee on the Employment Exchanges, presided over by Mr. G. H. Barnes, which had appeared in the morning papers that day.

She suggested that, if the meeting agreed to the resolution, the Minister of Labour should be asked to receive a deputation on the subject, and formally moved the resolution which she had read.

The Chairman remarked that there were loopholes for liberty in the Act, and the Minister had the power to formulate a special scheme for various sections of workers if he chose.

MRS. CAMPBELL THOMSON in seconding the resolution, said that she need add little to what Miss Breay had said. She had shown clearly that it would be disastrous for the provisions of the Act to be applied to nurses, and that a special scheme for them was necessary.

The Chairman agreed that the results would be disastrous, and emphasised the injustice of the economic conditions which brought under the provisions of the Act the professional woman worker, for the benefit of a class of workers to which she did not belong. As voters they must make it plain to politicians that they did not intend to tolerate such injurious legislation.

One lady, unable to be present, had said that had she been there she would have advanced the argument that if nurses were properly paid, the value of their salaries and emoluments would be £250 a year, and they would therefore automatically be outside the scope of the Act.

#### DISCUSSION.

Discussion was then invited, in which a number of those in the audience took part.

Miss Villiers wished to know the age at which unemployment insurance ceases, to which the answer is that contributions are not payable on account of anyone in receipt of an old age pension, or while an insured contributor is in receipt of sickness or disablement benefit or disablement allowance under the National Insurance Health Acts. Dr. Crouch enquired when payment commenced for unemployment. *Answer:* Not until three days after application has been made in the prescribed manner for unemployment benefit. One private nurse present asserted that she was out of work for from three to six months in the year, and that the majority of nurses were out for three months. She worked partly for an association and partly took cases direct for doctors; when at work she paid her association 15 per cent. on her earnings, or 9s. 6d. a week.

Miss Rimmer supported the resolution, and another nurse, who said she was working "under a church," but took cases sent by the borough council, enquired whether she was exempt. The

Chairman said the answer was in the negative, unless she was employed by a local or other public authority. It was further elicited that even if an employee is exempt, the employer still has to pay the contribution payable by him if the employee were liable to be ensured.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously, and the suggestion that the Minister of Labour should be asked to receive a deputation approved.

We print below the other resolutions carried unanimously at the Conference, but as we desire to report fully the important discussion which took place upon them, we reserve these until our next issue.

#### RESOLUTION II.

##### THE HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT BILL.

That the Hours of Employment Bill provides the means for compulsorily decreasing the long and unregulated hours of work of nurses in hospitals and kindred institutions.

This Meeting of Trained Nurses, therefore, desires to record its approval of the inclusion in the Bill of professional nurses working under uncontrolled employers, but considers that special regulations should be defined in the Bill to exempt classes of Trained Nurses who make their own contract for service with the patient.

Proposed by Miss M. F. Rimmer.

Seconded by Dr. Crouch.

#### RESOLUTION III.

##### A SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER OF COTTAGE NURSES.

That this Meeting of Trained Nurses emphatically supports the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in its decision not to establish a Supplementary Register of Cottage Nurses.

This Meeting is of opinion that if the title of "Registered" is bestowed upon Cottage Nurses, as such, both trained nurses and the public will be deprived of the privileges and protection to be effected through the Nurses' Registration Acts.

Proposed by Miss Florence Wise.

Seconded by Miss A. Cattell.

#### RESOLUTION IV.

##### RULES FOR STATE REGISTRATION.

(a) That, as the Nurses' Registration Acts do not provide for automatic registration, this Meeting desires to emphasise the imperative necessity that the Rules shall provide for equivalent standards of qualification for registration, between the General Nursing Councils of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

(b) That, as there is no provision in the Nurses' Registration Act for inequality of fee for registration, this Meeting considers that the maximum of one guinea provided in the Act should be charged to all candidates for registration, as the national work of the Council cannot be self-supporting on a lower fee.

Moreover, as registration carries with it the privilege of voting for the elected professional members of the Council, English Nurses are of opinion that preferential treatment, in this connection, for nurses trained in Scotland and Ireland would be unjust to those trained in England and Wales.

This Meeting of Trained Nurses respectfully urges the Minister of Health to agree to the Rules, in these particulars, unanimously approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Proposed by Miss Isabel Macdonald.

Seconded by Mrs. Paul.

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