

be some finality as to the answer to be sent to the Minister. They had decided, by small majorities, to ask to come out of the Bill, and to ask the Minister of Health to bring in a Bill dealing with the hours of employment of nurses. Let them answer the letter in that sense and find out whether the Minister of Health would or would not bring in such a Bill. Then they could weigh the facts.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP enquired whether the Chairman wished the Council to consider the resolutions he had drafted.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that it was in his mind that the members of the Council were very busy people who did not have much opportunity of hearing each others views. He had therefore drafted the two resolutions for consideration :

- (a) To provide for additions to the present Bill ;
- (b) To deal with nurses' hours of employment apart from the Minister of Labour's Bill.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP asked whether the Chairman thought there was the slightest chance of the Minister of Health introducing a Bill. Also whether it was necessary to rescind the resolutions passed by the Council in relation to the question before adopting either of his resolutions.

THE CHAIRMAN replied to both questions in the affirmative.

DR. GOODALL said that the Minister of Health wanted (1) an opinion on the College of Nursing scheme, and (2) their observations on the question in reference to the nursing profession in all its branches.

MISS DOWBIGGIN said that nurses were looking to the Council to do something to help them in this matter.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK proposed that the Council inform the Minister that they do not approve of the Schedule of the College of Nursing asking for a 56-hours' working week, and that they do not support its special schedule.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD seconded the resolution.

MISS COX-DAVIES said that the number of hours was one point in the College Schedule. There were others.

After further remarks, the resolution, on being put to the vote, was carried *nem. con.*, ten voting for it, and none against.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Council would now report to the Minister that they were not in favour of the hours proposed in the College of Nursing scheme.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP asked whether (b) scheme, as drafted by the Chairman, did not meet all the requirements of the case.

THE CHAIRMAN put to the meeting a proposal to postpone the discussion in order that some member of the Council might move a resolution to rescind the former resolutions.

This was negated by 9 votes to 8.

Reply to the Minister of Health.

SIR JENNER VERRALL then moved :—

That an answer be sent to the letter from the Minister of Health conveying to him the Resolutions passed :—

(1) That nurses should be excluded from the Bill now before the House connected with the Ministry of Labour.

(2) That the Minister of Health should be asked to bring in a Bill as conveyed by the following Resolution :—

" That the Minister of Health be asked to introduce a Bill to regulate the hours of nurses employed in hospitals and other institutions for the care of the sick."

(3) That he be informed that the Council desires to reply that they do not approve of the scheme set forth by the College of Nursing.

(4) That until the Minister of Health replies on the point of introducing a separate Bill the Council would rather not deal separately with the questions of institutional nursing, district nursing and private practice.

This was carried by 10 votes to 5.

MR. CHRISTIAN said that whatever the General Nursing Council did it was up to the seven-eighths of the mental nurses who wished to remain in the Minister of Labour's Bill to urge their views.

Report of the Finance Committee.

SIR JENNER VERRALL presented the Report of the Finance Committee. The bills and claims presented were principally for travelling expenses of members of the Council, and of candidates interviewed for appointments. Negotiations had been proceeding as to 12, York Gate, Regent's Park, as reported at the last meeting. It was found that Bedford College had the right to apply for the renewal of the lease, which they had done, and were willing to sub-let to the Council on a three, five, or seven years' lease. A sub-committee had been appointed to deal with internal decoration and furnishing.

SIR JENNER VERRALL also reported that the appointment of the Registration Clerk had been left to the Finance Committee. They had appointed Miss Gwladys E. Davies.

Also that the *Nursing Mirror* adhered to its claim not to accept less than 10s. 6d. per inch for advertisements inserted in that paper. The only thing to do, therefore, was to leave it out, as they had agreed to a flat rate of 7s. 6d. an inch.

The bills and claims were passed for payment and the Report adopted.

Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Council should be the second Friday in January, unless the Chairman considered it necessary to summon it sooner.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

Mr. C. G. Farmer, Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland, asks us to announce that the name of Miss Florence A. Merchant, Matron, Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, should have been included in the list of the Education and Examination Committee of the General Nursing Council for Scotland recently sent for publication in this JOURNAL.

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