

between the three countries, and the objection of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to deprivation of power of discretion in placing nurses on its Register as provided in the Acts. It was pointed out that such a system would establish a dangerous precedent, and place the Councils in a most anomalous position, and that the system of requiring equivalent standards was in force between the three Midwives Boards and worked without friction.

The Council declared itself strongly in favour of providing Rules for equivalent standards for registration by the three Councils as the only means whereby the Registers could be guaranteed and discipline maintained. It was agreed that without discretionary powers as to who should and who should not be placed upon the Registers, registration would be useless, and well-trained nurses would not register. The hope was expressed that the nurse members on the three Councils would stand firmly for the great principle involved, as it was their duty to protect the interests of the Nursing Profession as a whole. The Rules would be keenly criticised by the Nursing Profession when available.

On the proposition of the CHAIRMAN, it was agreed that Miss Breay be thanked for her letter.

Situation Created by the Opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown.

The next item on the Agenda was: "To consider the situation created by the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, and whether the same should be discussed *in camera*."

The adoption of this course was proposed by the CHAIRMAN.

MISS MACCALLUM said she would not oppose this course, but she thought that the members should hold themselves free, in the event of no agreement being reached, with regard to the Rules, to let the nurses know the position.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK supported this view, though the less the Council did *in camera* the better pleased she was, but she was of opinion that if agreement was not reached it was only fair to explain the situation to the nurses before they were asked to register.

MISS COX DAVIES proposed, and it was agreed, that the business taken *in camera* should be left to the end of the meeting.

The Seal of the Council.

The CHAIRMAN then moved: "That the Chairman be authorised to affix the Seal of the Council to all such documents as require to be sealed in pursuance of any resolution of the Council, and to give effect thereto."

The CHAIRMAN explained that it would be inconvenient to ask for permission each time, and the motion was seconded by SIR JENNER VERRALL, and carried unanimously.

The Report of the Registration Committee.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick presented the report of the Registration Committee, which, she stated,

had met three times, on February 11th, and on March 4th and 18th, and recommended that the following Rules should be received. The Rules were adopted with slight amendments as follows:—

(1) An applicant shall be permitted to apply for admission to the Register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, notwithstanding she may have been trained as a nurse in Scotland or Ireland.

Mrs. Fenwick explained that this provided that existing nurses would be able to register in the first instance on the Register they preferred.

(2) Provided that nurses holding a certificate with not less than two years' training in a General Hospital for Children followed by one year's training in an Approved General Hospital or Poor Law Infirmary approved by the Council prior to November 1st, 1919, would be eligible for the General Register. The same privilege was incorporated in Rules for Nurses trained in Fever Hospitals, and in Hospitals for Women.

(3) If any question should arise as to the meaning of effect of the Rules, that the decision of the Council should be final.

(4) Rules to provide jurisdiction by the Council as to the removal or restoration to the Register of the names of Nurses also registered by the Councils for Scotland and Ireland, or in the Dominions.

(5) To provide for the filling up of vacancies on the Committees.

(6) That "five" be substituted for "seven" as the quorum of the Education and Examination Committee.

(7) Rule 40. To restore sub-section (1) as originally drafted.

(8) New Rule 52. The Council shall be at liberty to request any member or members of the Council to visit any place or places for the purpose of explaining the Nurses' Registration Act and its purposes and rules, and to sanction the payment of all proper expenses incurred by such member or members in connection with such visit.

(9) Rule 53. Providing for the custody of the Seal.

The Report of the Education and Examination Committee.

Miss Lloyd Still presented the following Report, which was adopted:—

RULES FOR EXAMINATION.

(1) To recommend (with reference to the form in which nurses are to bring evidence to the Council of their training):—

"That a Schedule signed by the Chairman and the Matron of the Hospital be required from every Nurse applying to enter for the State examination, certifying that she has passed through the educational curriculum prescribed by the Council and is of good character."

And in the case of Poor Law Infirmarys,
"That a Schedule signed by the Clerk to the Guardians, the Medical Superintendent, and the Matron of the Poor Law Infirmary, be required

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