

had decided, in view of the labour involved, not to comply with the request.

Under these circumstances, the Chairman said the matter could not be carried further.

(4) A letter from Miss Puxley, on behalf of the Executive Council of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, inviting the General Nursing Council to appoint a representative on that body for the ensuing three years.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that an important principle was involved. Should a statutory and semi-judicial body co-operate in this way with a voluntary organisation? They knew that the Central Council for District Nursing was doing most excellent and necessary work; at the same time, she thought it undesirable for the General Nursing Council to establish official or semi-official relations with voluntary bodies. If the present invitation were accepted, many others would have to be acceded to. The Council would have no power over the policy or proceedings of such organisations.

MRS. FENWICK proposed and MISS COX DAVIES seconded that no representative be appointed.

THE CHAIRMAN said that, while it might not be expedient in this instance, he thought that, under the Act, the Council would not be acting *ultra vires* in making such appointments.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD supported the motion, and it was eventually resolved to reply that, while in sympathy with the work of the Central Council for District Nursing, the General Nursing Council were of opinion that it was at present undesirable to nominate anyone to discharge duties outside those of the legal function of the Council.

(5) A letter was read from Major Leo Harris, Secretary of the General Nursing Council for Ireland, forwarding for the information of the Council copies of Parts VI and VII of the Rules provisionally adopted by the Rules Committee of the General Nursing Council for Ireland.

Under Part VI are detailed the conditions of Admission to the Register, and the fee the Irish Council suggest should be paid by nurses already registered in Great Britain, the provisional suggestion being a fee of 7s. 6d.; or in any part of His Majesty's Dominions outside the United Kingdom (provisional suggestion), a fee of £1 1s.

The letter stated that the Rules Committee had also had under consideration the general question of the country in which a nurse should first be registered, and were of opinion that the country of training should determine the country of registration.

Part VII of the Rules relates to removal from and restoration to the Register.

The letter was referred to the Registration Committee for consideration and report.

RESOLUTIONS.

The Hours of Employment Bill.

MR. CHRISTIAN then moved, in accordance with notice:

"That the General Nursing Council recommends that nurses should come within the scope of the

Ministry of Labour's Hours of Employment Bill, except where a majority of the nurses in any distinct branch of the nursing profession decides to make application to be excluded from the provisions of the Bill. In such an event only the branch of the profession which makes the application should be excluded."

DR. GOODALL enquired what reply had been received from the Minister of Health to the Resolution forwarded by the last meeting of the Council.

THE CHAIRMAN said no reply had so far been received.

MR. CHRISTIAN said he had brought this matter forward because he thought that the previous Resolution disregarded the wishes of a minority of nurses, and, in the case of the mental nurses of a majority, and also because it was harsh, arbitrary, and unconstitutional.

THE CHAIRMAN asked how the opinion of a particular branch of nursing was to be arrived at, and MR. CHRISTIAN thought this could be done through the nurses' organisations.

MISS MACCALLUM seconded the Resolution. She had never heard of one nurse who did not wish to come into the Minister of Labour's Bill. The Professional Union of Trained Nurses was unanimously in favour of it.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE enquired, as a point of order, whether Mr. Christian should not move that the previous resolution should be rescinded before his own was considered.

THE CHAIRMAN said Mr. Christian's Resolution was not in terms to rescind, but its intent was to rescind.

MISS CATTELL expressed the view that some nurses desired to be included and others did not.

MISS TUKE thought that Mr. Christian's Resolution, if carried, would tend to break the solidarity of the Nursing Profession. It seemed to spoil one of the objects of the Council.

THE CHAIRMAN drew attention to the Resolution sent to the Minister by the Council asking that nurses should be excluded from the Minister of Labour's Bill.

DR. GOODALL hoped that the Council would not rescind the Resolution sent to the Minister of Health asking him to bring in a Bill regulating the hours of nurses. He had voted in the first instance with those in favour of nurses being included in the Bill of the Minister of Labour, but they were defeated. Nurses wanted to be under one Minister or the other in order that their hours might not be too long. The Council had passed a Resolution six weeks ago expressing the opinion that nurses should be excluded from the Minister of Labour's Hours of Employment Bill, and asking the Minister of Health to introduce a Bill regulating the hours of nurses employed in hospitals and other institutions for the care of the sick. It would seem extremely foolish for the Council within six weeks of taking this action to suddenly alter their minds. Also there was a provision in the Minister of Labour's Bill by which various branches of nurses could be excluded if it was so agreed between them and their employers. He was of opinion

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