

that until the Minister's reply was received it was undesirable to re-open the matter.

MISS MACDONALD said she was in sympathy with the spirit of the Resolution, though she considered it a mistake for the Council to consider economic questions at all, that was not their function. She suggested that consideration of the Resolution should be postponed.

SIR JENNER VERRALL was against postponement. If he felt that the action of the Council had been harsh, arbitrary and unconstitutional as suggested by Mr. Christian he would have been prepared to consider a compromise. He did not think that at this stage they should consider contracting out in sections. He was inclined to agree with Miss Tuke that solidarity should not be imperilled, though conditions of nursing certainly differed in the different branches.

On being put to the vote the Resolution was lost, four voting for it and fourteen against.

MISS MACCALLUM pointed out that those who voted for the Resolution were the representatives of the working nurses, as against those who employ them.

#### Rules for the Registration of Nurses Trained in the Nursing of Sick Children.

The next Resolution was moved by MISS WORSLEY that the following rule be substituted for Clause (b), Rule 5:

"A certificate that the applicant has had not less than two years' training in a General Hospital for Children approved by the Council as aforesaid together with evidence that she has prior to, or subsequently, been *bona fide* engaged in practice as a nurse in the nursing of the sick for not less than one year before the 1st of November, 1919."

THE CHAIRMAN explained that Miss Worsley's proposal was to insert the words "prior to."

MISS COULTON seconded and MISS SEYMOUR YAPP supported the resolution.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK pointed out that the insertion of the words "prior to" in this connection introduced a new principle into the Rules. The fundamental principle upon which the Rules for registration had been compiled was that practice must be preceded by a minimum of a year's hospital training. Under the proposed Resolution a year's untrained handy-work could count as a year's experience "prior to" the two years' training in a children's hospital—a wide door was thus opened for the recognition of untrained practice.

MISS WORSLEY said it was never intended the Resolution should have this effect.

SIR JENNER VERRALL agreed that a cardinal principle was involved.

MISS COX-DAVIES said that the year's experience prior to the children's hospital training must be in a hospital, or it would be most dangerous.

MISS WORSLEY then proposed, seconded by Miss Coulton, to amend the Resolution, providing that the year's practice prior to training in a Children's Hospital must be "in a general hospital or Poor-Law infirmary approved by the Council." It was agreed that the amended Rule be substituted for Clause (b), Rule 5.

MISS WORSLEY, seconded by MISS COULTON, then moved the following addition; to be Clause (c) Rule 5 of the Rules.

"A certificate that the applicant has had not less than two years' training in a General Hospital for Children approved by the Council as aforesaid followed by one year's training in an approved General Hospital prior to the 1st of November, 1919, should admit the applicant to the General part of the Register."

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK drew attention to the possibility, if the Resolution were passed in its present form, of a probationer who began her training in a General Hospital in and from November, 1918, up to November, 1921, being eligible for admission to the General Register, if during that period she severed her connection with the training school, even if she broke her contract. She thought the training schools might have cause of complaint.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE thought the Resolution referred only to existing nurses.

THE CHAIRMAN agreed, but confirmed Mrs. Fenwick's statement. The possibility existed, though there might not be many nurses who availed themselves of it.

MISS COX-DAVIES thought a danger of that sort ought not to be possible, even for a limited number.

In reply to the Chairman, MISS LLOYD STILL said she saw the danger clearly.

MISS COULTON, MISS WORSLEY, MISS MACCALLUM, SIR JENNER VERRALL, DR. BEDFORD PIERCE, and MISS SWISS took part in the discussion in support of the resolution.

MISS VILLIERS thought a certain number of nurses would avail themselves of the opportunity to break their contracts.

MISS MACDONALD agreed with this point of view.

MISS SPARSHOTT expressed the opinion that nurses valued their certificates too much to break their contracts.

MISS COX-DAVIES emphasised the fact that the Council might have to admit to the Register women who had failed to pass their examination at the end of a year's probation, and were not considered by the hospital authorities fit to continue their training.

It was resolved to insert the words "or Poor-Law Infirmary approved by the Council," after the words "approved General Hospital."

The motion was then carried.

#### The Report of the Registration Committee.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK (Chairman) presented the Report from the Registration Committee, which had met twice, on December 16th and on January 14th, and moved that it be received.

DECEMBER 16TH.

1. The letter drafted by the Chairman of the Council in reply to the Minister's Notes on the Rules was considered point by point, and with one amendment it was agreed that the letter as drafted left nothing to be desired. It was agreed to send it with a covering letter to Dr. Addison.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)