

In rising to move the above Resolution, MISS COX DAVIES said she was sorry her rather long absence had prevented her bringing this matter up at an earlier date. It was proposed to define two classes of Existing Nurses, "trained" and "certificated." Existing Nurses simply came on the Register as complying with the requirements of the Council, and all that the Council was concerned with was to see that they did comply with these requirements. The General Nursing Council was only concerned with certificates when nurses had satisfied the State, by submitting themselves to its examination, of their efficiency.

THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the prescribed definition to be entered on the Register in that case was "nurse by examination," not certificated.

MISS COX DAVIES, continuing, said that the matter concerned women who in days gone by had obtained the best training they could. They came on side by side with those who had got a three years' certificate. They would be doing grave injustice to "Existing Nurses" by emphasising these distinctions. She would like to see all registered with no further description than that of "Existing Nurse."

The question affected one, and perhaps more than one, of the large hospitals. Why was there a difference between "trained" and "certificated" nurses?

THE CHAIRMAN enquired whether there were many.

MISS COX-DAVIES said that many hospitals in the past had given a one and two years' certificate, and some gave evidence of training in the shape of writing.

THE CHAIRMAN enquired whether they could not get this evidence in a form which they could present to the Council.

MISS DOWBIGGIN seconded the Resolution and said that the effect of entering certificates on the Register would be to place nurses trained in the Nursing School at St. Thomas's Hospital—the pioneer training school of modern nursing—on a lower scale on the Register. She understood that old nurses trained in that hospital were anxious to maintain the system founded by Florence Nightingale. They were dealing with the State Register, and she supported Miss Cox-Davies in her contention that this invidious distinction should not be made.

SIR JENNER VERRALL said that according to the Rules, on page 8, nurses were required to hold a three years' certificate of training as one of the qualifications for admission to the Register. He then referred to the definitions on page 30.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was not specially provided that the word certificate should be entered, it would have to be an instruction.

MISS COX-DAVIES said that on the list before them that day the words "trained" and "certificated" appeared.

THE CHAIRMAN said the list was for the Council's private information and had nothing to do with the entries on the Register.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK proposed the following Amendment:—

That as Section 3 (1) (a) "for regulating the formation, maintenance and publication of the Register" was referred by the Council to the Registration Committee—now that the Rules are signed and the Register open—the Registration Committee proceed at the earliest date possible to consider this reference and report to the Council at its next meeting.

Mrs. Fenwick said that, as Chairman of the Registration Committee, she took strong exception to this Resolution having been placed on the Agenda. If, when the Council referred matters to a Committee, individual members of the Committee were to go over its head to the Council, before such matters had been considered by it, she considered it an act of grave discourtesy to the Committee and a proceeding which she, as Chairman, was not prepared to accept. Section 3 (1) (a) was still before the Registration Committee, and it had a right to discuss and report to the Council as to how best it could be carried into effect.

The Resolution contained an unprecedented proposal, of a most disastrous nature, calculated to wreck the Register. No medical or nursing Register had ever been compiled depriving—she would not use the word defrauding—the persons admitted of their professional qualifications. When the Medical Register was established—although unqualified persons were admitted—medical titles, diplomas and qualifications were credited to those who possessed them; on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association, certificates were recorded—and on the Register of the College of Nursing, Ltd., they had been recorded most carefully in a special column for the purpose. If this nominated Council were going to deprive the nurses of this country of the evidence of proficiency afforded by certificates awarded to them, then naturally no well-trained and certificated nurse would apply for registration. It would be a distinct disadvantage to her.

Mrs. FENWICK continued that she had been interested, in examining certificates sent to the Council for verification of qualifications, to observe that those awarded by the Royal Free Hospital, for thirty years back, notified the right of the holder "to practice as a Certificated Nurse." The Royal Free Hospital nurses would, therefore, have a special grievance if their certificates were eliminated. At St. Bartholomew's Hospital a three years' certificate had been awarded after examination since 1884. Many other hospitals did likewise. Much as it was to be regretted that the authorities of St. Thomas' Hospital continued to withhold them for so long, the Council would not be dealing justly with the nurses of England and Wales if they failed to record the qualifications of their certificates for this reason. If the Council thought that after working so hard for three years and upwards, in order to qualify as a "Certificated Nurse," the Existing and Intermediate nurses would submit to be deprived of them on the State Register—it was mistaken. She would stump

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