

**THE REASONS FOR THE RULES.
THE NURSES REGISTRATION ACT FOR
ENGLAND AND WALES, 1919.
MEETING AT LIVERPOOL.**

The meeting at Liverpool, organised by Miss Constance Worsley, Member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—to hear an address from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick on the Rules framed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to carry out the provisions of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919—was an immense success. In spite of the downpour of rain, the Physics Theatre at the University of Liverpool, where the meeting, which was representative of every branch of nursing, was held, was full to overflowing, many nurses sitting on the steps of the gangway.

Before the meeting, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was presented with some beautiful chrysanthemums by Miss Rose Conway, M.R.B.N.A., for many years a staunch supporter of the movement for State Registration of Nurses.

The Chair was taken by Dr. Alfred Holt, D.Sc., Chairman of the Council of the Amalgamated Children's Hospitals, and amongst those present were:—G. P. Newbolt, Esq., F.R.C.S., Hon. Surgeon at the Royal Southern Hospital; S. J. Lunt, Esq., Chairman of Walton Institution, and Dr. MacWilliam, Medical Superintendent; Miss Drysdale, Matron, Liverpool Queen Victoria District Nursing Association; Miss Bagnall, Matron, Royal Southern Hospital; Miss Rénaut, Matron, David Lewis Northern Hospital; Miss Aspinall, Matron, Stanley Hospital; Miss Bramwall, Matron, Eye and Ear Hospital; Miss Purves (Principal Matron of the First Western General Hospital); Miss Harris, Matron of the City Hospital, Netherfield Road; Miss Fraser, Matron of the City Hospital, Grafton Street; Mrs. Roberts, Matron, Walton Institution; Miss Blayney, Matron, Royal General Hospital, Chester; Miss Lockwood, Matron, Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby; Miss Fletcher, Matron of the Runcorn Hospital; Miss Golding, Miss Haswell, and other Matrons of the principal Nursing Homes, as well as Health Officers, Miss Searle, a great social worker in Liverpool, and others.

Mr. Wade Deacon, Chairman of the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, wrote from London expressing his regret that absence from Liverpool prevented his attending the meeting.

Dr. Holt said it was the proper thing for a Chairman simply to introduce the chief speaker, but he must say rather more than the customary two or three words. Nursing was essentially a feminine occupation, and it would have been appropriate for a lady to take the chair.

The Register of Nurses was now a *fait accompli*, and in carrying out its provisions lay committees were obliged to take cognisance of what was going on. As a Liverpool Hospital Chairman it was a great pleasure to him to get a comprehensive survey from one who knew the whole question so well, who had devoted her life to it, and who, he

thought, would dare, if occasion so indicated, to correct even His Majesty's Ministers. In asking Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to address the meeting he was asking the one person most qualified to do so. With unity of purpose and object she had concentrated on these nursing subjects, and brought to them a knowledge that no one else possessed.

Before proceeding to address those present on the subject for which the meeting had been convened, Mrs. Fenwick expressed her gratification at accepting the kind invitation extended to her to speak to a Liverpool meeting. In coming to Liverpool every nurse found herself in touch with pioneers in nursing work. Every nurse in Poor Law Hospitals looked upon Agnes Jones, who organised the nursing in Brownlow Hill Infirmary, as her Patron Saint, and it was in Liverpool also that Mr. William Rathbone initiated the system of district nursing which had borne such good fruit.

Mrs. Fenwick then delivered an address, practically the same as that given at Manchester on the previous day, which we published in our issue of October 29th.

PRIVILEGES CONFERRED BY THE ACT.

Mrs. Fenwick laid emphasis on the privileges conferred on the Nursing Profession by the passing of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919:

(1) The establishment of the General Nursing Council, on which the Nurse Members had a substantial majority;

(2) Power to compile the State Register;

(3) Power to prescribe the training, standards of education, and the one portal examination for Registered Nurses;

(4) To award a Certificate granting the protected title of "Registered Nurse";

(5) To make provision for a protected uniform and badge;

(6) To maintain discipline by the protection of the privileges granted to Registered Nurses and to remove from the Register persons convicted of felony, misdemeanour, or guilty of any misconduct.

DISCUSSION.

At the conclusion of the address the Chairman said they had heard a most extraordinarily interesting account of a rather dull book. He hoped all present would read the Rules, and see how splendidly the speaker had reviewed the whole subject.

Mrs. Fenwick would kindly answer any questions, if anyone desired further information, sent up in writing, if preferred.

The first remark he would make was that in 1924 the first State Examination was to be held. What would happen to those nurses who, having gone through the requisite training, did not pass the examination?

He pleaded for those nurses who failed.

Then as to finance. They had heard there was to be a guinea Registration Fee to finance the Governing Body, but who would finance the teaching of the nurses in the hospitals? An efficient

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