

in sympathy with the desire of your Council to secure uniformity of standard throughout the United Kingdom, but I am convinced that the approval of the Rule in its present form, even assuming it to be *intra vires*, would not conduce to the end which we all have in view. I trust, therefore, that the Council will agree to leave the question of reciprocity in suspense for the time being, so that they may be able to proceed at once to open the Register. On hearing from you that this course would be acceptable to your Council, I will at once sign the Rules.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) ALFRED MOND.

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MISS MACCALLUM hoped that the Rule would only be held up temporarily, after the Council's experience of Ministerial delay. She hoped the letter really meant what it said.

On the invitation of the Chairman MISS MACCALLUM moved that the Council agree with the Minister's letter.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, in seconding, said it was a most enlightened letter, and she was delighted to receive it, because it was the question of reciprocity without "equivalent standards" referred to in Rule 16 which had held up the opening of the Register for so long. She pointed out that there was no provision for "reciprocity" in any of the Nurses' Registration Acts, although the Law Officers of the Crown had decided that the Nursing Councils had no power of discretion.

The Registration Committee had recommended a Rule providing, as suggested in the Acts, for "uniformity of standard" between the three parts of the United Kingdom. This had been agreed to by the Council for Ireland, but they had been up against the demand of Scotland to place privileged specialists — Fever Nurses — on the General Part of the English Register.

The Council now learned with satisfaction that Scotland had withdrawn this demand.

If the proposal to leave the question of reciprocity in suspense did an injustice to Scottish and Irish nurses, she would not agree to it, but it did not, as nurses trained in Scotland and Ireland, whose qualifications were approved, could be admitted to the English Register on the same terms as nurses trained in England and Wales.

She was pleased to second Miss MacCallum's resolution that Rule 16 should be deleted from the Rules, as suggested by the Minister, and the consideration of reciprocity deferred.

The CHAIRMAN then put to the meeting the motion that the suggestion made in the Minister's letter be adopted, and this was carried unanimously.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE proposed that a copy of the Minister's letter be sent to the Council for Ireland, and this was agreed.

#### Register to be Opened.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK then moved:—

"That the Registration Committee be empowered to seal the Rules for Existing and Intermediate Nurses as soon as the Minister shall have signed them, and to open the Register for Existing and Intermediate nurses forthwith."

This was seconded by Dr. Goodall, and unanimously agreed.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK then moved:—

That the Council authorise the Registration Committee:

- (1) To consider applications for Registration.
- (2) To scrutinize testimonials as to character and professional efficiency.
- (3) To submit a list of applicants recommended to the Council for its approval, so that approved names may be entered on the Register of Nurses kept by the Council under Section 2 of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.
- (4) To report to the Council applications other than those recommended for approval.

This was seconded by Miss Swiss, and carried.

#### Announcements in Press.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE then moved that the Council, on receipt of the Minister's signature to the Rules, should announce in English and Colonial papers that it was prepared to receive applications for Registration.

This was seconded by Miss Worsley and agreed.

#### Report of the Registration Committee.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, Chairman of the Registration Committee, then moved that the following Report of the Committee be received.

This was seconded by MISS WORSLEY.

The Registration Committee has met once on June 23rd:—

(1) To recommend that the alterations and deletions in the Rules conveyed by letter to the members of the Council on June 24th after the Registration Committee, be agreed to (the letter has been minuted).

(2) To report that the printed copy of the Rules as amended was corrected by the Chairman of the Council, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Chairman of the Registration Committee, and the Registrar, before the final copy was submitted to the Minister of Health for signature on July 7th, 1921.

MRS. FENWICK moved that the Report be agreed, and explained that the alterations to the Rules included:—

(1) The extension of time before the publication of the first Register by six months, from January to July, 1922;

(2) That the words "of not less than one month without the option of a fine" shall be deleted from Rule 18 (4);

(3) That the General Purposes Committee shall consist of five members instead of eight, and that the quorum shall be three.

This was seconded and the Report was approved.

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