

Infirmery), Mrs. Roberts (Matron, West Derby Union), Mrs. H. T. Williams (Swansea Board of Guardians), also Mr. A. B. Chapman (Holborn Union), Canon Glossop (St. Albans Union), Rev. W. Mahon (Uckfield Union).

REV. P. S. G. PROPERT stated that the Conference of Representatives of Poor-Law Nurse Training Schools held at the Board Room of the City of London Union on July 8th, which had sent the Deputation, was highly representative of all Boards of Guardians with Nursing Schools. The Conference had no desire whatever to keep down standards, or to have two standards of training. The history of Poor-Law Nursing was one of continuous struggle to attain a higher level. The Conference approved of the principle of Registration, and that implied a qualifying examination before Registration.

In regard to the Syllabus put forward by the General Nursing Council the Deputation would like to make the following suggestions while agreeing with the principle. It wanted specific assurances that the knowledge of elementary science required was elementary only.

It urged the Council to prepare a Syllabus of Examination, so that training schools might know in what subjects these candidates would be examined. They were rather alarmed at the Syllabus of Training.

It urged that the first compulsory Examination should be deferred until July, 1925.

It considered that amongst the examiners, Medical Superintendents and Medical Officers of Poor-Law Infirmaries should be included.

MR. TOM PERCIVAL said that difficulty was arising from the alarm created by the elaborate nature of the Syllabus in the minds of the smaller schools. The larger schools had made up their minds to accept it.

He next referred to the subjects included in the Syllabus in the first year's training. The Drainage System, and the Disposal of Waste were items which should be taken out of the Syllabus as they were Public Health questions. The whole of the column in the 2nd and 3rd year relating to Elementary Science should be taken out entirely. It was a mistake to have optional subjects.

It would mean a variation of standard between School and School, and consequently they would be faced with variation in the Examination.

Gynaecology should not be included as it was a purely midwifery question.

The elaborateness of the Syllabus was a matter of form rather than of substance, and this would reduce its fearsomeness. The idea in the minds of teachers was that each item meant a separate lecture which would mean some 70 lectures.

MR. PERCIVAL urged the Council to put forward as early as possible any Scheme for the amalgamation of Training Schools. He instanced the case of the Tynemouth Union Infirmery which provided good medical training, while a voluntary hospital of 50 beds in the locality took surgical

cases. Affiliation of the two would be useful to both. The sooner the Council announced its recognition of such affiliated training the better.

The last point he wished to support was that the compulsory examination should be deferred and the optional period extended for another year.

#### Reply of the Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee.

The Chairman invited MISS LLOYD STILL, Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee, to reply to the points raised.

MISS LLOYD STILL said that, in view of the variety of standards of education it was thought best to leave the question of how elementary science should be dealt with, whether in the first year entirely, or amplified in the second and third years, to the Matrons and Sister-Tutors. To understand principles of drainage and hygiene was the foundation of a nurse's work. The science required in this connection was elementary entirely, but it must be included in the training of nurses, especially of district nurses.

In regard to gynaecology, the amount which should be taught was a question which was much discussed, but every nurse should know something of it. The methods of teaching anatomy were left in the hands of the teacher, to meet all grades of schools and all forms of education. It was not contemplated that each subject mentioned in the Syllabus should be dealt with in a separate lecture. The subject-matter of the lectures would be left to the discretion of the teachers.

The Deputation was assured that the Council were preparing a Syllabus of Examination.

In reply to a question as to whether any nurse would be permitted to come up for the Examination prescribed by the Council, no matter how and where she was trained, the Chairman said not unless she was trained at an Approved School.

In reply to the point as to whether Medical Superintendents of Poor Law Infirmaries would be appointed as examiners, MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that a Resolution had been agreed to and recorded on the minutes of the Council that registered medical practitioners should examine in the theory of scientific subjects, and Matrons and nurses in theoretical and practical nursing.

In reply to Mr. Propert, the CHAIRMAN said the Board of Examiners had not yet been appointed, also that the Syllabus did not require the sanction of the Minister of Health. It was not a Rule. In regard to conjoint training, it would be a simple thing for institutions to suggest schemes for local affiliation to the Council. The Council would be glad to have them.

MRS. H. T. WILLIAMS said she came from a working class district where girls left school at the age of fourteen. Was it the intention of the Council that Preparatory Courses should be established?

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said the Council had already accepted the principle and had recommended the establishment of Preliminary Schools. This was largely a financial question.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)