

time had now expired. Permission was desired to retain their services for a further period.

The Report of the Finance Committee with this addition was agreed

#### Resolutions.

DR. GOODALL then moved :—That the following Rule be inserted after Rule 9 :—

**Rule 9A.**—"Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding Rule the Council may accept in place of a certificate a copy of the certificate certified by a Justice of the Peace, Barrister or Solicitor, to be a true copy thereof, or where the applicant is a member of any organised body of nurses, recognised for this purpose by the Council, a declaration signed by the Secretary or other responsible officer of that body that on the admission of the applicant to membership the certificate or a certified copy thereof was produced to that body."

In moving this Resolution, Dr. GOODALL said the Council had agreed that the Register should be closed by September 30th for the purpose of the election. It was, therefore, essential to get a large number of nurses on the Register by that date. There were anything from 20,000 to 80,000 who might come on, and the nurses had not been registering in such large numbers as had been hoped—4,180 applications up to January 31st, and a few more since.

The present Council went out in December next; they must, therefore, have a good body of nurses to elect the direct representatives before that date. He reckoned that at the present rate there would be 10,000 by September 30th.

The approvals had been smaller than the applications, but 10,000 nurses were too small a number to elect the nurses' representatives on the Statutory Council. It was essential to do something to speed up Registration, and nurses were hesitating to register because they were being required to send up their original certificates. These ladies were holding back because they were afraid of losing their original certificates in the post, and considering the postal arrangements he did not blame them. That was one of the chief reasons why they were not registering. The Council ought to take such steps as would secure a large body of votes; for that reason he was bringing up this Resolution which would enable a larger number of nurses to be registered than had hitherto been the case.

To conform with the Resolution any organised body of nurses must be recognised by the Council. If the Council did not think that body took sufficient care in the admission of its members it could refuse its application for recognition.

MISS PETERKIN seconded, and said that many nurses were holding back. She was convinced there would be a more adequate electorate if Dr. Goodall's proposals were carried.

MISS COX-DAVIES proposed, and Mrs. EUSTACE HILLS seconded, an amendment to substitute the words "in these Rules" for "in the last preceding Rule"; and, in the last line, after the words "produced to" to insert "and was verified by" before "that body."

MISS MACCALLUM pointed out that if a mistake

were made by the Secretary of a Society outside the Council, the Council would have to bear the responsibility.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK opposed the Resolution on the following grounds :—The Rules had been drafted after serious consideration and due regard to the responsibilities of the Council for the correctness of the Register, and had been unanimously agreed. They had been signed by the Minister and agreed to by Parliament. Under the Rules under which they were now working every application, and the references, were investigated by members of the Registration Committee. As Chairman she had satisfied herself that no application had been recommended to the Council without expert scrutiny, as directed by the Council by special Resolution. She would like to draw attention to the fact that a large number of applications were insufficiently filled in. The present rule was that every certificate, and copy for filing, must be seen and certified by the responsible officials of the Council. Hundreds of copies, sent in as correct, were faulty, and had been corrected in the office. She had never scrutinised a batch of applications in which she had not found some further information necessary. In scrutinising the applications, the Registration Committee had had in mind the fact that their officials would have to compile and produce a correct Register which would be accepted as evidence in Courts of Law, and which would satisfy Nurses, the Medical Profession and the Public. Parliament had entrusted the Council with this responsibility.

In regard to the first part of the Resolution there was no objection. It was a course already adopted when original certificates could not be inspected. Verified copies of certificates had also been supplied by the responsible officials of hospitals. The second part of the Resolution was open to the gravest objection. It was proposed that the Council should accept instead of a verified copy of a certificate "a declaration signed by the Secretary (of a Nurses' Society) or other responsible officer of that body, that on the admission of the applicant to membership the certificate, or a certified copy thereof, was produced to that body." Mrs. Fenwick contended that no correct Register could be compiled on such a system. Were the members of the Council to depute their responsibilities to irresponsible persons, instead of having certificates verified in their own office by their own responsible officials? Registered Nurses were paying at the rate of £50 a week in salaries to have their work done efficiently in their own office. She was opposing the principle underlying this Resolution that members of the Council appreciating the personal responsibility conferred upon them by Parliament, were to be deprived of it. They must not leave out of consideration the fact that when Parliament was asked to pass the Nurses' Registration Bill the Council of a body of Nurses desired to be made the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession. The organised nurses protested against this, and the Minister of Health, in drafting the Government Bill, made provision

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