

for the establishment of an independent Council—the General Nursing Council—to carry out the provisions of the Act. The Resolution under consideration really supported the demand of that same Body, which was running a Voluntary Register competing with the State Register, to acquire power over the Council. She strongly objected to the Council depriving her of power and responsibility granted to her as a member of a Statutory Council. If this Resolution were carried there need be no direct documentary evidence of a nurse's qualifications. Nothing but hearsay on which to compile the Statutory Register. She hoped the Council would not consent to depute its responsibilities to irresponsible persons and deprive itself of the authority and prestige given to it by Act of Parliament.

SIR JENNER VERRALL said that the present system worked too slowly and expensively. As Treasurer he was concerned with the latter point. It cost a great deal of money to return all the certificates forwarded for inspection, and further, there was the cost of the time of the office staff to be considered. They must remember, in this connection, they were dealing only with applications from nurses holding certificates. The entrance to the Register of those who had no certificates—*i.e.*, those admitted under 9 (1) (b)—was easier than that for those admitted under 9 (1) (a) who possessed certificates. The effect of the present Resolution would be to reduce expense, and to increase the speed of registering nurses. An improvement in both these respects was necessary. At the time when the Medical and Dentists Acts were passed every one was taken in at one fell swoop.

MISS LLOYD STILL expressed the opinion that by this means, and this means only, could they speed up Registration.

MISS MACCALLUM said that very few members of the Council had scrutinised the application forms, and therefore had no idea of the mistakes made by responsible people. She would mention two only which came under her observation on the last occasion on which she put in an hour's work at their office. (She had been prepared on that occasion to give several hours' work had it been there to do.) In the case of a nurse who had lost her certificate, application was made to the Matron of the hospital where the nurse stated she was trained for confirmation of this statement. The Matron replied, "Miss Margaret — was trained in this hospital," &c.

Later the nurse wrote, "My Matron has made a mistake; my name is Mabel, not Margaret."

In another instance when an application for information was made to one of the first London Hospitals the Matron gave a date as 1901, the nurse wrote subsequently that this was a mistake. The date should be 1903. She thought the Council would land itself in any amount of difficulty if it did not obtain direct evidence of qualifications.

MISS CATTELL said that the Council had every right to do its own work. No one thought of the nurses, neither the doctors nor the Matrons.

Every paper must be seen; if the Register was to be worth having and the public protected. If the Matrons would kindly tell the nurses to register—a course they urged in connection with a voluntary Register—there would be no difficulty, not any.

MISS MACDONALD said that if they accepted the declaration of one voluntary body it would be the thin end of the wedge entangling the Council with other bodies, and there would be endless controversy. It would be an unfair judgment to come to—very unfair.

MR. CHRISTIAN said in regard to the latter part of the Resolution he would like to know how it was to be carried out. Were the nurses to go to the Secretaries of the Societies, or the Secretaries to the nurses?

MISS VILLIERS did not think that any voluntary body was as careful as the compilers of the State Register ought to be.

MISS DOWBIGGIN said if they did not accept the proposal of the Resolution they were going to lose the value of a large body of well-trained nurses coming on the Register. Miss Cox-Davies' amendment added an additional safeguard. She did think the Council should try to speed up Registration.

DR. GOODALL said he supported this view, inasmuch as they had already put on the Register people whose qualifications were not so good as those whom the Resolution would affect. He was quite willing to accept Miss Cox-Davies' amendment as to verification taking place when a nurse joined the body concerned.

MISS COX-DAVIES' amendments were then incorporated in the Resolution, and the Resolution carried by 16 votes to 6.

A similar Rule was adopted in connection with Rule II.

RESOLUTION II.

DR. GOODALL then moved:—

That Forms 1 (a) and 1 (b) in the second Schedule to the Rules be amended by substituting for the words:—

"I forward herewith my Certificate of Training (and copy of the same) from....." the words—

* "I forward herewith my Certificate of Training and copy thereof."

* "I forward herewith a certified copy of my Certificate of Training."

* "Evidence of my training may be obtained on application to"

*Strike out the paragraphs which are not applicable.

This was seconded by the Rev. G. B. Cronshaw and carried, six members of the Council voting against the Resolution.

MISS COX-DAVIES then moved:—

"That it be an instruction to the Registration Committee to examine only those cases which are reported to them by the Registrar as being doubtful, and that the Registrar be directed to submit to the Council through the Registration Committee, for their approval, all applications which are clearly in order and covered by previous decisions."

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