

## RESOLUTION II.

The second Resolution was moved by Miss Stewart Bryson:—

The Members of the Matrons' Council also desire to express their disapproval of the two new Rules passed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on February 17th—

(1) They are of opinion that the qualifications of applicants for Registration on the State Register should be scrutinised by members of the General Nursing Council before they are approved by that body; and

(2) That as the members of the Standing Committees were appointed to serve until the dissolution of the Council, not later than December next, they should not now be dissolved upon the futile reason advanced, and agreed to by the majority of the General Nursing Council.

The Matrons' Council is of opinion that such a course must lead to disruption of the work of the Council and to injury to the interests of the Nursing Profession, and it respectfully petitions the Minister not to sign these Rules.

Miss Bryson, in moving the Resolution, said that she was sure in the first place that not to have their qualifications scrutinised by members of the General Nursing Council would be a great disappointment to nurses who were proud of them and wished them to be scrutinised. She thought qualifications must be subjected to similar scrutiny before the names of nurses could be put on to any Register. The rank and file of nurses would have no confidence in the Register if this were not done.

In the second place she wished she could think that the reason for the proposition that the Standing Committees should be dissolved was sentimental. She was afraid there was something more behind it than that. If this proposal were carried into effect the work of the Council was bound to be hindered, as the new members of Committees would not be acquainted with what had been done by their predecessors.

She felt strongly on this matter, and was of opinion Nurses would have no faith in the General Nursing Council if this Rule were sanctioned.

Miss Bryson also pointed out that the Nursing Profession would be perfectly at sea as to what was going on in the General Nursing Council if it were not for the attendance of the press at the meetings, and the expert reports in *THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*. It seemed as if a body of people were combined to betray the nurses, and she was thankful that the nurses had also staunch friends upon the Council. She begged to move the Resolution and to protest strongly against this Rule.

This was seconded by Miss Winmill.

Miss Anderson Parsons said that the situation gave occasion for serious and concentrated thought. It was proposed by members of the General Nursing Council to lay down certain duties which they had undertaken to perform. She protested against any member laying down duties which she had accepted and delegating them to an official. All qualifications should be honestly scrutinised by members of the Council in the manner arranged

and agreed upon, as was the desire of members who did not wish to see the whole thing brought into ridicule.

She was very much afraid that some of the members accepted office on the General Nursing Council because they liked the prestige of being upon a Statutory Body, but were they there with a deep strong interest for the welfare of the nurses at heart? When it came to an election—which was now not far off—as professional and working women they should see to it that those they elected would stand for the interests of the working nurses, and would raise their status and their standard. At whatever cost they must have such people working there.

She feared the proposal to dissolve the Committees was a veiled attack upon the work of those who stood for the nurses' interests. They must have people upon them whom they knew and trusted.

Miss Pearse said she had considerable experience of the work of Committees in connection with public bodies, and she could think of nothing more likely to delay the work of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales than the dissolution of the present Standing Committees, and the appointment of new ones for the short term of office which remained to it. It was a wrecking proposition.

Miss Pearse also said that she had had much scrutinising work to do in connection with nurses' applications for appointments, but the last word was never left to her. The Committee dealing with these appointments went carefully through each one, those which she rejected as well as those which she recommended. She could not think it could be seriously proposed that it should be left to the discretion of the Registrar as to what appointments should be brought before the Registration Committee for its consideration.

Continuing, Miss Pearse said that Matrons were people of great influence in the Nursing Profession. The time was coming when the Registered Nurses would have to elect their own representatives on the General Nursing Council, and they must be most careful about it. They did not want a caucus of people with axes to grind, or who would be the catspaws of their employers. The Matrons' Council was peculiarly a body which could inform nurses as to this election, and she thought it would be immensely useful if, when the time approached, it took definite steps to instruct them.

Miss Breay said that the member of the General Nursing Council who proposed the new Rule as to the dissolution of the Standing Committees—Miss Coulton—must have a very poor idea of the mentality of the Nursing Profession as a whole, if she thought it would accept the futile and disingenuous reason she had given for their dissolution as the real reason. She was glad Miss Bryson had used the word "futile"; it was the only one which described the suggestion that because a few members of the Council would like to serve on a Committee before their term of office came to an end, that the whole of the work

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