

to having its professional diplomas signed by two members of another profession. If anyone suggested to teachers or doctors that their diplomas should be signed by two archbishops, or archangels, or nurses, would they not lead him out of the room and get a keeper for him? Would anyone dare to make such a suggestion except to down-trodden nurses?

MISS BERTHA CAVE, who said she was a member of both the R.B.N.A. and the College, saw no reason why certificates should be signed by a matron.

MRS. FENWICK replied that if the nurses had a scrap of professional self-respect they would demand that a Registered Nurse, as Chairman of the Registration Committee, should sign the Certificates. The medical profession had no jurisdiction over the nursing profession outside the sick room.

MISS STRAHAN said she would not take office on that Committee as at present handicapped if she was paid £10,000 a year. The members were deprived of the power of performing their duties at the instance of those who were too ignorant to know what they were doing, or too idle to perform the work.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following Resolutions were then proposed:—

Resolution I.

That this Meeting desires to record its warm approval of the policy of its nominees on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss S. Villiers, Miss Isabel Macdonald, and Miss A. Cattell, and to associate with them Miss Maude MacCallum and Mr. Christian, and to offer them a very cordial vote of thanks for the firm stand they have taken in protecting the best interests of nurses, and the prestige of the Nursing Profession during the recent crisis in the Council.

Furthermore, the Meeting desires to express its strong disapproval of the methods by which the majority of the members of the Council agreed to deprive Mrs. Fenwick, Miss Villiers, and Miss MacCallum of office on the Registration, Education, and General Purposes Committees of the Council and the Profession of their expert services, and offers them sincere sympathy on the indignities to which they have been subjected.

MISS GLADYS LE GEY, in moving the first Resolution, congratulated the members of the free self-constituted nurses' societies on the wisdom with which they had made their selection of nominees for the General Nursing Council. Month in, month out, they had served the interests of the nurses and guarded their liberties and rights. Theirs was creative brain-work, manifested in that book of Rules approved by the Minister of Health, down to spade-work and the dull routine of conscientious methodical examination of the genuine evidence of certificates and testimonials placed before them, in the interests of the Nursing Profession, and the public whom it serves.

What was happening to-day, when by secret ballot our trusted representatives had been deprived of office on the Committees she had named. It needed looking into.

MISS LE GEY reminded the meeting that, in supporting the Resolution, they were not only protecting themselves, but guarding the liberties and economic status of those thousands of voiceless, innocent fellow-workers in training to-day. If we allowed the new Rules to go forth unchallenged, and without protest, the precedent would have been established whereby the Certificate of Registration might for all time be sent out without the signature of a single nurse-member of the Council. You could not dip into history without finding on every other page the fight to break down precedent in England.

By their presence at the meeting the members of the self-governing societies had vindicated their right to be remembered in the history of Nursing as those who vehemently protested against the autocratic treatment of the Nursing Profession by the members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on the General Nursing Council, and also demanded that the government of the nurses should be by the nurses themselves and not by any other profession.

Our loyalty was wholeheartedly at the service of the medical profession when we served them at the post of duty, but we insisted that in the management of nursing affairs nurses must voice their own needs and their own rulings. She therefore asked the meeting to support the Resolution.

MISS STEWART BRYSON seconded the Resolution, and spoke of the wonderful example the Nursing Profession had in Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and her splendid work. Everyone, by working sincerely, could do something to further the cause. Mrs. Fenwick had shown them daylight, and they also must work to show their gratitude.

Miss Villiers, one of the most respected Matrons in the Fever Nursing Service, was one under whom she had served as Assistant Matron, and from whom she had learnt much. Miss Villiers had a strong sense of justice, and always insisted that every nurse, down to the most junior probationer, must have justice.

MISS BRYSON concluded by saying that she could not express how grateful she was to the pioneers of nursing organisation.

The Resolution was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Resolution II.

That this Meeting has learned with indignation of the threat made by the Minister of Health in the House of Commons on Wednesday, March 22nd, that if new Rules, obnoxious to large numbers of nurses were not agreed, he would move the repeal of the Nurses' Registration Act for England and Wales.

Further, this Meeting respectfully informs the Minister of Health that the societies of free nurses affiliated in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses will resist, by every means in their power, any attempt to deprive the Nursing Profession of the legal status and other privileges granted to them by Parliament, for which they have worked for 30 years and paid upwards of £30,000 to win.

MISS G. LORD, in moving the Resolution, said that she wished that all in the audience, and, indeed, all thinking nurses who had acquainted themselves with the history of the long struggle for State Registration, had been in the House of

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