

as the whole of the money is contributed by the Registered Nurses.

This Meeting is of opinion that such appointments should be limited to Registered Nurses.

MISS KATHLEEN A. SMITH, R.R.C., in moving the third Resolution, said she had read recently that nothing which was worth while was wrought suddenly, and that was true of this fight of ours. The struggle had gone on so long for the uplifting of our profession, which was the best anyone could have, and we thought we had won the victory. But, no. Why not? Because some of our own profession whom we thought we could trust had failed us.

Our leaders had stood for all that was best and highest in the profession, but some who had not given so much time and thought to the matter were of opinion that nurses could not govern themselves; personally she thought the women who had done this thing had betrayed their profession. They had shown they had no confidence in their colleagues, yet some who had done this were the heads of training schools, having, themselves, great responsibility. Did they not feel competent to scrutinize applications for registration? By their vote a medical man had been placed in the chair of the Registration Standing Committee of the General Nursing Council, and they had thereby shown a lack of confidence in themselves. What did the nurses think about it?

What did they think about voting a lay woman into the chair of the General Purposes Committee? It was a scandal. No lay woman should hold such a position in the General Nursing Council, a Registered Nurse should have been placed there. She went further and said no lay woman should ever have been allowed to have a seat on the General Nursing Council. It should have been composed entirely of nurses.

MISS SMITH referred to "that splendid pioneer of nursing, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, whose signature she was proud to say she had on her certificate." She earnestly hoped that the certificates would again bear the signature of a Registered Nurse Member of the Council.

MISS TREVENA, who seconded the Resolution, said Miss Smith had put the case so clearly that there was little for her to say. As a working nurse, and one who had suffered grievously from lay and medical control, she would like to thank her as a Matron for standing by the workers. What struck her most was that the majority of the General Nursing Council did not realise that the State Register was not financed on charity though the College of Nursing, Ltd., was subsidised, it was financed from the hard earnings of the nurses. In her view it almost amounted to serfdom to contribute this money in order that lay people might try to manage our affairs.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

Resolution IV.

That owing to the determination upon the part of the lay and medical element of the General Nursing

Council, supported by the College Matrons, to deprive the Profession of Nursing of expert help on the Standing Committees of the Council, the members of the free nurses' organisations affiliated to the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses invite the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council to proceed at the earliest possible date to include in its constitution the object of working for a General Nursing Council composed of Registered Nurses, upon the same professional basis as that of the General Medical Council, which can alone secure professional self-government.

MRS. PAUL, in moving the fourth Resolution, remarked that a lady in the audience had stated that her massage and midwifery certificates were not signed by matrons, but two wrongs never made a right. Nurses should show a little more spirit.

She would like to impress on those present the necessity for working for the reform advocated in the Resolution. One did not achieve things by merely grumbling, or by reproaching the medical members of the General Nursing Council with patronage. They must get to work to organize, and to find the money to support their propaganda, for the Free Nurses supported their own organizations, they were not subsidised by charitable doles.

The old Local Government Board had a rule by which people in receipt of relief were disfranchised. She commended it to attention. She had much pleasure in moving the Resolution, and endorsed the principle which it incorporated—the government of nurses, by nurses, for the benefit of nurses.

MISS C. A. LITTLE (Hull) seconded, and remarked that thirty years ago, when she was a probationer in training, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick came down to the hospital where she was working to speak on the State Registration of Nurses. She considered it a great honour to have the opportunity of paying tribute to her to-day.

In the early days of the State Registration movement the majority of hospital authorities were against it, and the matrons followed the line of least resistance. Miss Little expressed great faith in the judgment of public opinion, and illustrated her belief by an anecdote of a youth who not long since kicked over an old lady's flower basket in the middle of the road and fled. She threatened him with dire penalties. Who did the public sympathise with? The flower seller of course; and if Sir Alfred Mond put his foot under our flower basket, public opinion would be with us. She had much pleasure in seconding the Resolution.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD said that a few hundred years ago people were subjected to physical torture on the rack. Now physical torture was out of date, but persecution through the intellect, the method adopted to-day, was almost as cruel. It was that form of persecution to which Mrs. Fenwick had been subjected.

Almost the most important part of the Resolution was the constructive policy which it advocated

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