

of working for a General Nursing Council composed of Registered Nurses.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK asked the meeting not to think that they had gained nothing. In spite of present difficulties, they had won legal status by the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act. Before that we were building on sand, now we were building on a rock.

The present generation might not see the establishment of a General Nursing Council composed of nurses only. It was a revolutionary proposal in this land of privilege and prejudice, but the younger generation if they were faithful would see it. At any rate we would begin next week to work for it. Eventually the Free Nurses would win. It would entail sacrifice, but they would enter into this new fight "tails up." It was perfectly certain that this polyglot Council was ridiculous. It was dangerous to personal liberty, tyrannical and out of date. They must substitute something worthy of respect in its place. The Resolution was carried enthusiastically and unanimously.

#### Resolution V.

That the members of the free nurses' organisations present at this Meeting pledge themselves to combine for self protection, and for the protection of such privileges as have been granted them by Parliament in the Nurses' Registration Act. And they hereby further pledge themselves to work for the establishment of a Nursing Council composed of Registered Nurses (analogous to the General Medical Council which is composed exclusively of Registered Medical Practitioners) for the organisation and self-government of the Nursing Profession.

MISS H. L. PEARSE in moving the last Resolution, said it focussed that which had gone before. She desired to emphasise the pledge which it contained. One way of carrying out this pledge was to strengthen the self-governing Associations of nurses, and she suggested that every member should endeavour to get two other members, and further, work for the establishment of a Nursing Council composed of Registered Nurses. By this means we should get order, and good, out of the present disturbance. If we meant to attain this end then every member of Parliament must be put wise. There would before long be an opportunity. The speaker also urged nurses to use their votes for the election of the 16 nurse members of their own Council wisely when that election took place.

The Resolution was seconded by Miss A. E. HULME, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of co-operation, organization, and articulation, and the meeting terminated, after a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers, and to the Chairman for the admirable manner in which she had presided.

#### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

He who wants to do good knocks at the gate ;  
He who loves finds the gate open.

"Happiness is a species of energy."—*Aristotle.*

### FEVER MATRONS ADDRESS THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

The following letter has been addressed to the Minister of Health by Matrons of Infectious Hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board and others.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR ALFRED MOND, BART.,  
P.C., M.P., MINISTER OF HEALTH.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Matrons of Infectious Hospitals, beg to bring to your notice one disastrous result of the re-organisation of the Standing Committees of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales which took place, by ballot, at its meeting on March 17th.

On the Education and Examination Committee which has the responsibility of dealing with the whole future curriculum of every branch of nursing, our very able and experienced colleague, Miss Susan A. Villiers, Matron of the South-Western Hospital, Stockwell, was eliminated, a lay woman without any practical experience of professional nursing being elected in her place, leaving no expert Fever Nurse upon this Committee of twelve persons, and therefore ignoring the important branch of the nursing of infectious diseases—a most serious omission upon the part of the General Nursing Council.

When the importance of the education of Fever Nurses for the benefit, and safety, of the public is fully realised, we feel sure that you, as Minister of Health, will sympathise with our motives for inviting your serious consideration to this matter. We venture to hope that steps may be taken to rectify this action on the part of the General Nursing Council.

It may be argued that because the Medical Superintendent of a Fever Hospital has a seat on the Committee, that it meets our needs, but we would respectfully submit that a knowledge of a special branch of medical science in no way compensates us for the loss of an expert in Fever Nursing.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

- F. M. AMBLER JONES, Matron of South-Eastern Hospital, S.E.14.  
J. H. BALSILLIE, Matron of Park Hospital, S.E.13.  
R. BUTLER, Matron of Southern Hospital, Dartford.  
N. H. THORPE, Matron of River Hospitals, Dartford.  
E. WORSELDINE, Matron of Eastern Hospital, E.9.  
C. R. GOODING, Matron of Western Hospital, S.W.6.  
E. E. OWEN, Matron of High Wood, Brentwood, Children's Hospital for Pulmonary Diseases.  
S. HELLESEN, Matron of Goldie Leigh Homes for Ringworm of Scalp and Skin diseases.  
E. STEVENS, Matron of Downs Sanatorium, Sutton.

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