

If the Reciprocity Rule of the English Council were taken it would be seen that the position it took up was defined there. For months past the Scottish Council had been going on accepting copies of certificates. Now, they found they were wrong, and they proposed to make a fuss with the English Council. Each Council could have its own methods of ascertaining the validity of certificates, and it was not in the province of the English Council to criticise Rules made for the purpose by the Scottish Council, or for the Scottish Council to criticise the English ones. If the Rules had the approval of the Minister there was no need for the Council to worry itself. The Scottish Council might disapprove of their delegating their statutory duties to other people, but it was a matter of administration not in the province of the Scottish Council to criticise. Eventually all Registered Nurses would have to pass the examination set by the Council.

The Scottish Council which was now criticising them was the very Council which wanted to put wholesale on to the General Register all sorts of nurses—fever nurses. This was the Council which was now coming down on the English Council and its methods.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK disagreed with Dr. Goodall. Form 1b, the Application Form, was a Statutory Form, and Forms v and vi under discussion would presumably be approved and signed by the Minister before being incorporated in the Rules. Scotland had agreed with England on the Reciprocity Rule under the Rules then in force, and should have been consulted before it was submitted to the Minister for alteration. Dr. Goodall had misrepresented the action of the Scottish Council in regard to the registration of fever nurses, and said the Scottish Council had desired to place fever nurses on to the General Part of the Register. This was not so. The General Nursing Council for Scotland was very much opposed to such action. It was the Scottish Board of Health which urged that its certificated Fever Nurses be placed on the General Register, and the English Council, by opposing this claim, had helped the Scottish Council to combat this undesirable procedure.

Rule 9A affected the Scottish Council, inasmuch as it evaded the standard of evidence it required for registration. It was obvious it was possible for Scottish Nurses who did not conform to the Scottish requirements to register in this country under Rule 9A as second-hand entrants and then under the Reciprocity Rule to obtain admission to the Scottish Register. In regard to the Registration system, Scotland was right in objecting to the admission to the Register of second-hand entrants on verbal instead of on verified documentary evidence, and she was glad to hear Scotland was taking action for the protection of its own method.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP asked whether Scotland had not accepted copies of certificates?

DR. GOODALL did not know.

MISS MACCALLUM said the English Council had done so.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that during the time she was Chairman of the Registration Committee it was the rule that certified copies of certificates should be verified from the institution issuing them.

DR. GOODALL said that MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK had already spoken once.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK claimed the right to speak again, and said that the question had been raised in the early days of the Council, and the late Chairman had decided that free speech was to be permitted.

MISS MACDONALD emphasised the importance of verifying documentary evidence for registration.

On the vote being taken on Item 4, four voted against it, and the majority in favour.

On Recommendation 5 (d) MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that other cases might arise of nurses not trained at the London Hospital but in a similar position. She thought this recommendation should be framed so as to include these nurses.

On Recommendation 7 the consideration of applications for registration was deferred for consideration *in camera* at the end of business.

The Report was agreed.

#### Report of the Finance Committee.

In the absence of Sir Jenner Verrall, Chairman of the Finance Committee, its Report was presented by Lady Hobhouse as follows:—

The Finance Committee has met once—on April 6th, 1922.

1. To report that Sir Jenner Verrall was re-appointed Chairman of the Committee.

2. To recommend that the Bills and Claims submitted for payment be approved.

3. To recommend that from this date onwards third-class fares instead of first-class fares should be paid to members of the Council attending Council and Committee meetings.

4. To recommend that the Report of the General Purposes Committee be approved with the exception that in Para. 4 six weeks' sick leave on full pay should be granted in place of three months.

5. To recommend that in future all claims under £500 should be met by cheque on the London Joint City & Midland Bank, Ltd.

#### Discussion on the Finance Report.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK inquired why the Council had not been provided with slips up to date giving the number of applicants and fees for Registration as usual.

She elicited that the number of applicants to date was 5,023.

MISS MACCALLUM asked that the members of the Council might be supplied with copies of the weekly returns sent to the Minister.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK asked to whom the Minister's letter had been addressed asking for weekly returns, and was informed by the Chairman that it had been addressed to the Council.

MRS. FENWICK said she objected to such letters being intercepted and acted upon before they had been submitted to the Council.

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