

cate. Could she then send a further secret communication to the Registrar of the Council of which the Nurse had no knowledge? If the Nurse was informed of the contents of the communication, she had no objection to offer.

MISS COX DAVIES said it was only proposed to accept the Matron as sole referee when the nurse was still at work in the hospital in which she had been trained.

MR. CHRISTIAN said the nurse had the alternative means of making application in the ordinary way.

DR. GOODALL said the question had been before the Registration Committee for some time. Often nurses could not get references from any one except in the hospital. The Minister did object to the Rule submitted to him, and if he liked to turn this Rule down he must turn it down.

It was then agreed to submit the Rule to the Minister by 14 votes to three.

APPLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD. FOR RECOGNITION.

In regard to Item III (b) the recommendation that the College of Nursing, Ltd., should be recognized by the Council under Rule 9A as an organised body of nurses, DR. GOODALL said it was a misapprehension to suppose that nurses would come in *en bloc*. There was no such intention. Nurses would apply individually as before.

MISS MACDONALD asked for how long?

DR. GOODALL said that members of the College were still required to furnish certificates of character. The Council had no power to arrange otherwise under Rule 9A.

MISS MACDONALD said they could make a Rule 9B.

DR. GOODALL said it was time enough to make that observation when such a Rule was made.

It was quite obvious that a number of members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., would not be eligible to come on to the State Register, because their training was insufficient. Applications would come before the Registration Committee and if the applicants were not eligible they would be turned down. The Council required a minimum of one year's training. He moved recommendation (b).

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK spoke in opposition to the motion, and, in the first place took very strong exception to the Council which was a Statutory Body having to apply to a limited liability Company formed by laymen for the professional credentials of candidates for the Nurses' State Register.

When the new rules were drafted the true object of the objectionable Rule 9A was to associate the College closely with the Statutory Council. If that were not so the object of the Rule fell to the ground. It was time that this rivalry of the College with the Statutory Council should cease. It swept across the bows of the Registration Bill before Parliament at the last moment, and was now running a rival Register. The Council might very well intimate to the College that it should cease to compete with the Council. To concede that the General Nursing Council could

not organize its own Register was scandalous. The College had not seen the original certificates of its members, and unless copies were verified they could not say they were accurate. Why was the Council to go to the College of Nursing, Ltd., for this second-hand information? That method was most undignified, insufficient, and inefficient. The Council's officials should verify certificates direct from the training-schools, and a record be filed in the office. There would never be peace until the Council was permitted to manage its own affairs without interference from the College. She would vote against the recommendation.

MISS MACCALLUM said the College was a limited liability company, and never once had it had the support of any organised society of nurses. It was an Association of Employers, of hospital authorities. The Council would be very ill-advised to antagonise nurses, when it wished to get them on the Register.

MISS MACDONALD said Dr. Goodall had set out the Constitution of the College, but he knew the whole controversy in relation to it; how its Registration Bill was changed time after time; and was aware of the influence of the Matrons in regard to it.

MISS CATTELL and MISS DOWBIGGIN having taken part, and MISS MACCALLUM having elicited that the applications of the Royal Free Hospital Nurses' League, and the College of Nursing, Ltd., were the only ones which had been received for recognition under the new Rule, the recommendation was voted upon, 12 voting for it and six against.

NURSES' UNIFORM.

In regard to the recommendations as to the uniform, Miss Villiers inquired whether it was proposed to settle these at once. The Committee had recommended a sailor hat which was about the most unbecoming shape they could have decided upon. She thought a Uniform Committee had been appointed.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said there was a Uniform Committee which had met once, and made recommendations which were accepted in March. It had not been summoned again. Had it been disbanded?

DR. GOODALL thought it was a Sub-Committee of the Registration Committee.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said this was not the case. Miss Cattell who was not a member of that Committee was upon it.

MISS COX DAVIES said three other ladies had been appointed, herself, Miss Peterkin, and Miss Coulton.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK thought it was treating the Uniform Committee with extreme discourtesy not to notify the members that it had been disbanded.

MISS CATTELL, who was exceedingly interested in the subject, protested against the treatment of the nurses in this connection.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE thought it rather foolish to decide upon the uniform without consulting Scotland and Ireland.

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