

General Nursing Council, and hopes that, without delay, a Registered Nurse will again be elected to the Chair of the Registration Committee.

Miss Helen Pearse said it was quite obvious what the intention of the General Nursing Council was in this connection. Unless they had wished to eject the late Chairman of the Registration Committee from that office they would not have resorted to such nefarious tricks. It was a most extraordinary thing for any public body to interfere with the personnel of Standing Committees of ability and expert knowledge, and a grasp of the business in hand, within a few months of the time when they must be dissolved.

The representatives of the free associations of nurses deeply resented this action of the Council. In the late chairman they had had one with no axe to grind, the ablest member of the nursing profession, and the pioneer registrationist. She considered it most insulting to imply that there was not a member of our own profession on the General Nursing Council qualified to sign the certificates of registration. She was sure that those members of the Matrons' Council who possessed Mrs. Fenwick's signature on their certificates valued it as a most choice possession. She thought a very strong protest ought to be made on this point. The Resolution was strongly supported, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION III.

That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland desires to place on record its indignation at the unjustifiable attacks to which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been subjected from a section of the General Nursing Council in the performance of her public duty as a member of that body. It desires to convey to Mrs. Fenwick its sense of the great services she has rendered to the Nursing Profession and the public in this connection, its unabated confidence in her ability and integrity, and its thanks for the distinguished manner in which she has served the Nursing Profession as a member of that Council.

In moving this Resolution Miss Beatrice Cutler expressed her pleasure in doing so, and said that she considered it a great honour to be asked to undertake it. It had been her good fortune to have been associated with Mrs. Fenwick from the beginning of her nursing career, and her help was invaluable. She had worked whole-heartedly all her life for the good of the nursing profession at large, and for the higher education and State Registration of Nurses in particular.

Now that through her efforts this great reform had been achieved, it was deplorable that through personal jealousies she should be attacked so unjustifiably.

Unfortunately, such great people were often not fully appreciated in their own generation, but they live in the ages.

It was right that they should, and in the future of our great profession the name of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick would stand among the greatest of our women pioneers.

The Resolution was carried by acclamation with a rising vote.

RESOLUTION IV.

That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland desires to convey to Miss S. A. Villiers, Miss Isabel Macdonald, Miss Alice Cattell, Miss Maude MacCallum, and Mr. Christian, its sincere appreciation of the disinterested manner in which they have supported in the General Nursing Council all proposals for the benefit of the Nursing Profession and the public, and to assure them of its confidence and support.

Miss Mary Lord, late Matron of Banstead Mental Hospital, said that she had been engaged in mental nursing for the last 36 years. She desired to emphasise the points incorporated in the Resolution. The members of the General Nursing Council mentioned in it had shown exceptional skill, sometimes under very trying conditions. The Nursing Profession and the public deeply appreciated such staunch supporters of the right.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, on her own behalf and that of her colleagues, acknowledged both Resolutions, and thanked the Matrons' Council for supporting their policy.

The business meeting then concluded, and the members adjourned for tea, daintily served in the dining-room.

SPEECHES BY THE COPENHAGEN DELEGATES.

When the members re-assembled, Miss H. L. Pearse and Miss J. C. Child, Delegates to the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Copenhagen, spoke on their experiences. Miss Pearse gave a very lucid and graphic account of the business proceedings, and described the picturesque ceremony of the reception of the new countries on the first evening, South Africa, represented by Miss Child, being the first. The President, Mrs. Tscherning, led her by the hand to the rostrum, and after presenting her with a bouquet of lovely flowers, welcomed her in her own language, the British National Anthem being played meanwhile. Miss Child then responded. The representatives of Norway, Belgium and Italy were similarly welcomed. Miss Child then gave a charming description of the social side of the meeting, and referred to the great hospitality and kindness of their Danish hostesses, and to their professional solidarity.

At the conclusion of the speeches, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed, and the chair seconded, that a most hearty vote of thanks should be sent from the Matrons' Council to Mrs. Tscherning and the Danish Council of Nurses for their gracious hospitality and kindness to the Delegates. This was carried with enthusiasm, and a very interesting meeting then terminated.

As we go to press we have received a notice from Miss Cordell, Matron of St. Mary, Islington Infirmary, in reference to a memorial to the late Dr. A. H. Robinson, for a number of years Medical Superintendent of the Infirmary. We hope to refer to it again next week.

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