

was altered now it would have the effect of nullifying the registration of those nurses, members of the College of Nursing, who had been registered under this provision.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK repudiated Dr. Goodall's accusation of ulterior motives.

SIR JENNER VERRALL thought that if the Council were not satisfied it should not have accepted the Rule. The Resolution, as proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was not sense.

THE CHAIRMAN supported Sir Jenner Verrall, and thought that, if the copy was certified, verification would be unnecessary; the Resolution, as proposed, was nonsense.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK considered it very unjust to accept a privileged body of nurses for registration on uncertified copies of certificates and compel others to produce and pay for them.

The Resolution, on being put to the meeting, was lost.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said justice should be administered by the Council; under Rule 9 (A) this was not done.

The press then withdrew, and applications for registration were considered *in camera*.

## NO AMENDMENT TO OMIT THE WORD "CERTIFIED" FROM RULE 9 (A).

Note by the Representative of "The British Journal of Nursing" present at the meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on February 17th, 1922.

### Re Rule 9a.

The Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales at its meeting on September 22nd, said that the "Press was wrong" in reference to Mrs. Fenwick's statement that the representatives of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the *Nursing Mirror* and the *Poor Law Officers' Journal* all recorded in Rule 9a the word "certified" before "copy" in relation to the certificate of an applicant for Registration under the provisions of the Rule.

I propose to show that the Press was not wrong.

The Chairman of the Council states that the Rule in which the word "certified" was omitted was handed to him in typewriting. I, of course, accept his statement.

But I absolutely deny that it was, or could have been handed to him in that form during the meeting of the Council, for the simple but incontrovertible reason that an amendment was made to the Rule, as proposed by Dr. Goodall, and that there was no typewriting machine in the room.

It could not therefore have been re-typed and handed to the Chairman before being passed by the Council.

The word "certified" was, as Mrs. Fenwick stated, in her Resolution on September 22nd, eliminated (presumably by inadvertence) when the Rule was subsequently put into form with the amendment inserted.

### RULE 9A.

As inserted on the Agenda for the meeting of February 17th (which is before me) and moved by Dr. Goodall, Rule 9a was as follows:—

"Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding Rule the Council may accept in place of a certificate a copy of the certificate certified by a Justice of the Peace, Barrister, or Solicitor, to be a true copy thereof, or where the applicant is a member of any organised body of nurses, recognised for this purpose by the Council, a declaration signed by the Secretary or other responsible officer of that body that on the admission of the applicant to membership the certificate, or a certified copy thereof, was produced to that body."

An amendment was moved by Miss Cox Davies, and seconded by Mrs. Eustace Hills (1) to substitute the words "in these Rules" for "in the last preceding Rule," and (2) to insert the words "and was verified by" before "that body."

This was the only amendment.

The Rule was therefore carried in the following form:—

"Notwithstanding anything in these Rules the Council may accept in place of a certificate a copy of the certificate certified by a Justice of the Peace, Barrister, or Solicitor to be a true copy thereof, or where the applicant is a member of any organised body of nurses, recognised for this purpose by the Council, a declaration signed by the Secretary or other responsible officer of that body that on the admission of the applicant to membership the certificate or a certified copy thereof was produced to and was verified by that body."

If the word "certified" was deleted, who moved that this should be done? Perhaps Dr. Goodall will say.

Perhaps also Miss Cox Davies will state whether or not, as mover of the amendment, she handed up to the Chairman of the Council an amended typewritten copy of the Rule at the meeting of the Council on February 17th, as the Chairman is apparently prepared to swear. Had she done this at the meeting on September 22nd, the matter could have been cleared up at the time.

The Chairman of the Council stated that to amend the Rule as Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed would make it read nonsense.

Scottish people do not usually write nonsense. The following is the Scottish Rule as to accepting copies of certificates:—

### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND RULE 21(A).

"Notwithstanding anything in the last preceding Rule, the Council may accept in place of a Certificate of Training a copy of same certified to be a true copy thereof by a Minister of Religion, Registered Medical Practitioner, or other responsible person, *provided that the Registrar is able to verify the accuracy of the said certified copy by reference to the Hospital Authorities.*"

This, like Mrs. Fenwick's resolution, appears to be sound common sense, and a reasonable precaution. It will be remembered that the General

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)