

when presented to the Council in July, 1921, had been unanimously adopted. Now they heard that Sir Alfred Mond had held it up for fifteen months. She could not help feeling that there was some motive at work which prevented its being signed, that certain bodies of people not in sympathy with the Syllabus had got at the Minister.

It was agreed that the Syllabus was the best that could be sent forth, and the best was what they wanted to give to the nurses. If certain bodies wanted to keep nursing standards low that was no reason for abandoning the Syllabus, and for depriving the schools prepared to adopt it, from doing so. If everyone who went up for the State Examination did not get through, it was, nevertheless, true that "not failure but low aim is crime." They looked to the Minister to sign the Syllabus so that the Training Schools might get to work officially upon it. She urged that the General Nursing Council might have this Syllabus to its credit as one of the finest bits of work it had accomplished during its term of office.

Miss A. M. BUSHBY seconded the Resolution.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, in supporting the Resolution as one of the members of the Education and Examination Committee who had helped to draft the Syllabus of General Training, as had also Miss Villiers, said that the Committee had carefully considered the Syllabus for a year. When submitted to the Council, on July 14th, 1921, it was unanimously approved, and forwarded to the Minister of Health for his approval and signature. No one ever imagined that the Minister would hold up the Syllabus for fifteen months. It had been printed, and many training schools were working upon it, and young women taken into them on the understanding that they would be trained upon it for the State Examination in 1924, now found there could be no compulsory examination in that year.

No doubt bodies of employers were actually agitating against the adoption of the Syllabus at the Ministry of Health.

Then the Chairman of the General Nursing Council had recently informed a deputation of Poor Law Guardians that the Syllabus was only a model, and that no one would know when a nurse came up for examination whether she had been trained upon it or not. Yet Section 3 (2) (a) of the Nurses' Registration Act provided that Rules under this section should contain provisions "requiring as a condition of the admission of any person to the register that that person shall have undergone the prescribed training, and shall possess the prescribed experience, in the nursing of the sick."

To inform a deputation of responsible persons that the Syllabus of "prescribed training" was so much waste paper was, in her opinion, *ultra vires* and quite unjustifiable.

The proposal to scrap the Syllabus was defeated by a narrow majority at the last meeting of the Council, the net result of being governed by a Council partly composed of ignorant and timorous persons, many of whom knew nothing whatever

of nursing education or our professional requirements, and were there apparently to oppose those who did.

In connection with the resolution, she proposed to substitute the word "*prescribed*" for "provided" after "educational benefits." The meeting should understand that the Act gives nurses the right to a "prescribed training," but she feared that if the Syllabus was not signed before the present Council went out of office, and their militant representatives were ousted by Rule 9A in the forthcoming election, the nurses would be deprived of their Syllabus of Training for years.

Miss Kathleen Smith accepted the amendment.

This was agreed, and the Resolution, as amended, carried unanimously.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK further proposed that a copy of the Resolution, with an explanatory letter should be sent to the Premier-designate to invite his consideration of their grievances.

This was seconded by Miss CLARA LEE, and carried.

Miss H. L. PEARSE suggested that the hope might be expressed to the Premier-designate that in selecting a Minister of Health he might appoint some one with some knowledge of health and nursing problems

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Miss S. M. Marsters who, together with Miss S. A. Villiers, represented the Matrons' Council at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, in October, at Cambridge, said that the delegates had had a very pleasant time. The question of nursing was apparently not of much interest to the meeting. The interest, therefore, of the meeting for nurses centred on their duties as citizens, women police, housing questions, and venereal disease were some of the many subjects dealt with by resolution. They were also taken to see a self-supporting colony of ex-service men at Papworthy, where the men were taught trades, and which was extremely interesting.

It was announced, amidst applause, that the Hon. Treasurer of the Council, Miss Villiers, had been re-elected on to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

#### THE G.N.C. ELECTION.

Miss HEATHER-BIGG then proposed, and the proposal was cordially received by acclamation, that the Matrons' Council invite Mrs. Bedford Fenwick to stand for election at the forthcoming election of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. In her they had the one real stateswoman the Nursing Profession possessed, who would, moreover, deal with their business with honesty of purpose.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said that the proposition was a very flattering one and she would consider it. She had been urged to run the gauntlet of the infamous Rule 9 (A) specially drafted, by persons outside the General Nursing Council, to exclude her. She mentioned that members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., the Association of Hospital Matrons, and the Poor Law Infirmary

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