

available. For purposes of record and presentation to Parliament it would be convenient if four proof copies could be furnished.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) L. G. BROCK.

The Chairman,  
General Nursing Council.

#### PRESCRIBED SCHEME FOR ELECTION.

THE CHAIRMAN then said that in the letter received from the Ministry with the Prescribed Scheme for the Election submitted by the Council, which had been circulated, the Council would see that the Ministry said that cutting out the words "General and Poor Law" disfranchised all Matrons not Matrons of Training Schools.

He referred to Form A, page 12, and the Election of 5 Registered Nurses, and said, that to omit the words "General or Poor Law" disfranchised Matrons of Special Hospitals who would not have a chance of getting on the Council at all. The Ministry therefore said that the original words must be restored. [There is no such direction in the above letter.—Ed.]

MISS MACCALLUM pointed out that in these circumstances there might not be a single working nurse on the Council.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that she would have liked to move a drastic amendment that the Scheme for Election should be on the same democratic basis as that in Scotland, and that the 11 representatives of general nurses should be elected by the Registered Nurses on the General Part of the Register, but she recognised it was too late for this amendment. There was a certain amount of justice in what the Minister said that Matrons of institutions were excluded from representation, but to discriminate between nurses standing for branches of nursing would be most confusing; there would be more than one who had done private or district nursing, &c. The more democratic and simple the Rule the better.

MRS. FENWICK proposed "That five Registered Nurses be elected by the Registered Nurses in the General Part of the Register."

MRS. FENWICK drew attention to the statement made by the Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., at a meeting at St. Thomas' Hospital in the previous week that he had good reason to believe that the words, "who should not be past or present Matrons of hospitals," had been deleted from the Rule under discussion, which was agreed to by the Council at the last meeting and submitted to the Minister for his approval. From what source had Sir Arthur Stanley obtained this information when the Minister's views had not been presented to the Council? She strongly deprecated this evidence of interference on the part of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with the work of the Council at the Ministry of Health. Miss MacCallum seconded Mrs. Fenwick's motion.

DR. GOODALL enquired if any proposal to alter the Rule could be discussed without notice?

THE CHAIRMAN thought it could be discussed on the Minister's letter, but it would be impossible to alter the scheme. [Why?—Ed.]. SIR JENNER VERRALL said they were told their former proposal (that five seats be secured to nurses who were not Matrons) was *ultra vires*. He thought Mrs. Fenwick's amendment was out of order.

In reply to MISS SEYMOUR YAPP, the Chairman pointed to a footnote in explanation of the Minister's recommendation on page 12, part 5. MRS. FENWICK enquired who had inserted the footnote.

THE CHAIRMAN: "I did."

THE CHAIRMAN, upon further consideration, said, he did not think he could accept the amendment.

MRS. FENWICK claimed that, according to the Minister's letter, an amendment was permissible. THE CHAIRMAN said he could not accept it!

MISS MACCALLUM enquired why Sir Arthur Stanley was in a position to inform the meeting, at St. Thomas Hospital, what was the Minister's opinion on the Council's scheme before that opinion had reached the Council, when he stated he had not got his information from the Ministry?

THE CHAIRMAN said it was no use asking him; he had not given the information to Sir Arthur Stanley.

MISS MACCALLUM said that was what she wanted to know.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE proposed to insert that the five Registered Nurses should be those "not eligible for election under the preceding parts."

THE CHAIRMAN said that necessitated completely recasting the Scheme. He asked leave to send it to press as presented.

REV. G. B. CRONSHAW moved and MISS STEELE seconded that Form A be sent to press, and this was carried by 10 votes to six.

#### Report of Finance Committee.

SIR JENNER VERRALL, Chairman of the Finance Committee, then moved that the Report be received.

The Committee has met once, on October 12th, 1922.

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

II. To recommend that 5,000 copies of the Register be printed, and that they all be bound in the red covers with gilt lettering.

III. To report that, at the present rate of expenditure for stamps, the amount required for the ensuing month will probably be £250.

SIR JENNER VERRALL reported that the estimate for printing the Register, viz., £562 4s. 9d., did not include the red cloth-boards binding, as the Medical Register, which would be another £46 per thousand. It was agreed that it would be desirable to adopt this form of binding, and the additional expenditure was approved.

MISS COX DAVIES moved and MISS SEYMOUR YAPP seconded the proposal that the number printed should be 3,000. This was carried by 18 votes to one.

The Report was then agreed as a whole.

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