

given in this country, and required another name.

The Scottish delegates had not plenipotentiary powers, and this question had to be adjourned.

Part III (page 4) "Nurses Registered after June, 1925," was then considered.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK asked who the "Superintendent" was who would give a certificate of good moral character to a nurse. Did it mean a lay or medical Superintendent? She objected to men being made responsible for a reference of women's moral character (laughter).

Mrs. FENWICK said it was no laughing matter, but a fundamental principle of discipline, laid down by Miss Nightingale, that women should be responsible in a Nurse Training School in this particular.

After some discussion it was decided that the person to testify to the moral character of the nurse was the one occupying the position of Superintendent of Nurses.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE SYLLABUS OF GENERAL TRAINING.

THE CHAIRMAN said the letter from the Minister could now be considered.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said that the letter from the Minister, dated November 15th, concerning the Syllabus of General Training, had not been reported on by the Education Committee, as directed. The letter suggested the evasion of Section (3), (2), (a) and (b) of the Act, which gave nurses the right to a "prescribed training" under Statutory Rules, by substituting a Syllabus of Examination issued "under the authority of the Council," and making "prescribed training" permissive and not compulsory, as decreed by Act of Parliament, with the result that probationers would have no assurance that they would receive "prescribed" education, and which would leave the Schools "recognised by the Council" free to adopt the Syllabus or not, as they chose. If a School did not conform to the standard of training the Council was directed to "prescribe" the Council had no power to approve it as a training school.

In a previous letter the Minister had informed the Council they had no power to issue and enforce the Syllabus of Training until he had approved it, and this he was not prepared to do until the Rules for Examinations and the whole body of Rules, Section (3) (2) (3) were before him.

Mrs. Fenwick asked whether the Rules and Syllabus had yet received the approval of the Minister?

The nurses had a right under the Act to a "prescribed training," and the sooner the Council urged the Minister to sign the Rules and Syllabus the better. If the General Nursing Council failed to secure this right for the nurses on the General Part of the Register they intended to take other means to have the Act enforced.

Why were nurses on all the Supplementary Parts of the Register to have the privilege of "prescribed training" secured to them, and general nurses to be denied the right?

In recommending that the Syllabus of Lectures and Demonstrations for Education and Training in General Nursing be now issued "on the authority of the Council," without the approval of the Minister and the Statutory authority of Parliament, the Education Committee was attempting to evade the Act, and pandered in a weak and invertebrate manner to the managers of a few voluntary hospitals and Poor-Law Guardians.

The Council Agrees to Invite the Minister to Sign the Syllabus for General Training.

Mrs. Fenwick then proposed:—

"That the Minister of Health be invited at once to sign the Syllabus unanimously agreed to by this Council to carry into effect Section 3 of the Nurses' Registration Act (2) (a) and (b)."

This was seconded by Miss MACDONALD.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE was informed by the Chairman that the General Nursing Council for Scotland had long ago agreed to the Syllabus.

DR. GOODALL said, in regard to the Fever Syllabus, he understood that it was for the guidance of the Training Schools, and that it should be left to the schools to carry out the method of training in their own way, and that the Syllabus of Training would be the Syllabus of Examination.

Mrs. FENWICK's motion was then put to the vote and carried by nine votes to four.

The effect of this resolution was that Recommendation (4) of the Education Committee, in regard to issuing the Syllabus under its own authority, thus leaving it optional, was deleted from the Report.

EXAMINATIONS.

It was agreed that the first Preliminary Examination should be held in *July*, 1924, instead of January as proposed in the Education Report.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE took exception to the recommendation in the Syllabus of Subjects for Examination that "bandages, splints and extensions" should be required. He considered it too much to expect a mental nurse to know at the end of the first year.

THE CHAIRMAN said only an elementary knowledge would be required.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE said that was all very well, but the examiners would be trained surgical nurses.

THE CHAIRMAN said what Dr. Bedford Pierce was saying was that he could not teach mental nurses the principles of applying splints and extensions during their first year's training.

RECOGNITION OF TRAINING SCHOOLS.

Under paragraph IV, page 8, of Education Report it was agreed to add the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby, and the Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common.

On the proposition of Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, seconded by Miss COX DAVIES, it was agreed that the recommendation that the East Ham Borough Isolation Hospital be approved as a training school for nurses be referred for further information.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)