

issue of the 2nd inst., on the results of the General Nursing Council Election.

The writer of the article expresses the belief that the fact that the large majority of the candidates, who have been elected (or appointed) are those who opposed the policy of the minority on the last Council, shows definitely that the considered opinion of the nursing profession is against this minority. As a matter of truth I would like to point out that it shows just what the said minority on the Council has always maintained (before and after they occupied seats on the Council), namely, that the nursing profession is being swept under the control of a body consisting largely of, and strongly influenced by, the employers of nurses, namely, the College of Nursing. The result of the election is *not* owing to the *considered* opinion of nurses, but owing to the *dependent* position of nurses. They were shepherded in to the College wholesale, and told how to vote by the College matrons, and the profession is for the time being in the control of matrons and doctors—whom nurses dare not oppose, as their future careers depend on them. All the candidates returned for the General Register are College members.

The result of the Election is no surprise to the unsuccessful candidates. They courageously stood for election as a matter of principle. If it is any consolation, they have that of proving that the danger they foresaw years ago has come into being.

I am, yours faithfully,

E. L. C. EDEN,

(Hon. Adviser, National Union of Trained Nurses.)

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

37, Stobcross Street, Glasgow,

February 14th, 1923.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—At the first meeting of the Executive of this Association held since the announcement of the result of the elections for the General Nursing Council (England and Wales), we were instructed to express to you our deep regret that one, who had for so many years given so much time and labour to the cause of Nurses' Registration, and who was equipped with so exceptional knowledge and experience of nursing affairs, should not have been returned to the Council.

We appreciate the causes of so lamentable a result, and we hope that these causes will not be permitted finally to destroy the aims that seemed so near realisation.

On behalf of the Executive,

J. MCGREGOR-ROBERTSON, *President*.

CHRISTIAN H. M'ARA, *Secretary*.

[We beg to express to our very kind compatriots who form the Scottish Nurses' Association, our sincere gratitude for their expression of appreciation for the work we have been permitted to do, in helping to place the Nurses' Registration Acts on the Statute Book of these Realms.]

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The thirty-second meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales—the first meeting of the new Council—took place on Friday, February 16th, at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.

SIR WILMOT P. HERRINGHAM, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the last Council, was in the chair, but immediately vacated it, saying that as he was a nominated candidate for the chair of the new Council it would not be seemly for him to occupy that position while the election was taking place. He accordingly invited Sir Jenner Verrall to do so.

SIR JENNER VERRALL announced that the only member of the Council nominated for the position of Chairman was Sir Wilmot Herringham, who had been nominated by Dr. Goodall, Miss Cox Davies, Miss Alsop, and Miss Musson. The election therefore was a very speedy one. He hoped all their business would be conducted as speedily and with the same unanimity.

SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM then resumed the chair. He said he had been invited to say a few words—he was of opinion the fewer the better. What he had to say he would say at the end of the meeting.

Minutes.

In connection with the Minutes of the last meeting, Mr. ROBERT DONALDSON enquired whether there was not an omission at the end. He had not been present at the last meeting, but from the Reports he saw in the Press it appeared there was an omission. Had anything been omitted—anything important?

MISS MAUD E. WIESE said she too had noticed in the Press a question raised by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick of which there was no record in the Minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Minutes were not supposed to be verbatim. As the question had been raised, he would say, in the presence of the Press, that reports in the newspapers were frequently incorrect. Notices had appeared, supposed to be verbatim, in which he himself had been incorrectly reported.

MISS VILLIERS said she thought Mr. Donaldson was alluding to the question of the fee of £2 2s. for Intermediate Nurses raised by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick at the last meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN said now he understood what the question was. The Registration Committee had exercised its discretion to allow Male Nurses, whose training had been broken by the war, and who therefore had not completed three years' training and service before November, 1919, to be considered as Existing Nurses. That was the point raised by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.*

* This is not an accurate reply. We deal with this matter on page 124.—ED.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)