

in the matter of the election, protected by the following outrageous Rule in the Scheme for election, thrust through the Council by his supporters.

No election held under this Scheme shall be invalidated by reason of any misdescription or non-compliance with the provisions of this Scheme or by reason of any miscount, or of non-delivery, loss, or miscarriage in the course of post of any document required under this Scheme to be dispatched by post, if it appears to the Returning Officer that the election was conducted substantially in accordance with the provision of this Scheme and that the result of such misdescription, non-compliance, miscount, non-delivery, loss, or miscarriage did not substantially affect the result of the election;

Provided that any unsuccessful candidate or her agent may, within fourteen days after the declaration by the Returning Officer of the result of the election, appeal to the Minister of Health, whose decision shall be final.

This Rule constitutes the Returning Officer an absolute Dictator, and there is no legal protection whatever, either for the candidates or the electorate.

At the recent election not only was the whole of the clerical work "put out" by the Chairman—although there is a staff of 30 clerks in the G.N.C. office—but owing to grave carelessness a space was provided for numbers, printed on the back of the Ballot Papers for voters to fill in, which violated the sanctity of the ballot!

In a recent reply in the House on this error, the Ministry of Health blamed the printer for this "non-compliance with the provision of this Scheme," which was unjustifiable, as the printer printed the Ballot Paper according to the copy sent to him.

Thus is the Nurses' money squandered. Let us hope "similar bodies" do not indulge in like "equitable" practices!

Nurses' Registration Act.

NURSES' RIGHT TO A "PRESCRIBED SCHEME" OF TRAINING UNDER THE ACT.

DR. W. A. CHAPPLE (Lib., Dumfries) asked the representative of the Ministry of Health whether any curriculum has been drawn up prescribing the course of training for nurses qualifying under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, and whether any provision has been made for holding a State examination for nurses.

Viscount Wolmer: The General Nursing Council have submitted a draft Syllabus of training and examination, and my right hon. Friend is now in communication with the Council in regard to them. Arrangements for conducting examinations which will be held by the Council, and not by the Ministry, have not been made.

Remarks.—This reply shirks the present position. The Council drafted an excellent Syllabus of Training in 1920, and issued it to the Nurse Training Schools, preparatory to holding an examination in 1923, and large numbers of the best hospitals and infirmaries accepted it and began to train on it. Then the Poor Law Guardians Union stepped in and opposed it. The Council was informed the Ministry of Health must approve the Syllabus under the Rules. This was a set-back, but as there was no serious opposition to the Syllabus, the Act providing for a "prescribed scheme of training" by hospitals approved by the Council, no real

difficulty was anticipated. However, time went on. Sir Alfred Mond would not approve the Syllabus, Sir Wilmot Herringham was appointed Chairman, and presumably without reading the Act, pronounced the Syllabus *permissive* and not *compulsory*, as stated in the Act, and his amenable Council, lay, medical, and College Matrons, adopted this *volte-face* like a flock of sheep, and are now attempting, by ambiguous phraseology, to substitute a skeleton Scheme of Examination for the "prescribed scheme of training," thus depriving the pupil nurses of the most valuable privilege granted to them by Parliament—security of professional education—to qualify them for the State Examination—a right registered nurses mean to demand. We hope Dr. Chapple, who thoroughly understands the importance of "prescribed training" before examination will help future nurses to secure it. Sir Wilmot Herringham, the scrapper of the curriculum, holds very reactionary opinions on nursing education and organisation, and is one of the very last men in the medical profession who should have been entrusted with power over this interdependent profession of women.

The Cost of the Elections.

Mr. T. Griffiths (Lab., Pontypool) asked the representative of the Ministry of Health what was the cost of the Election of the nurses' direct representatives on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales which had to be quashed; and what was the cost of the second made necessary thereby?

Viscount Wolmer: My right hon. Friend will have inquiry made on this point, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Remarks.—It is to be hoped that the Finance Committee will make a detailed report to the General Nursing Council on the expenditure of the double election at its forthcoming meeting, on March 16th next.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

We have received the following communication from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland:—

"As the advertisement recently inserted by my Council in your columns appears to have been misunderstood by many nurses, my Council ask me to say that they would be much obliged if you would insert a paragraph in an early issue making it clear that the period of grace for Existing Nurses, which expires on July 29th, 1923, does not apply to Intermediate Nurses (*i.e.*, Nurses whose training was completed on or after November 1st, 1919)."

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Nurses in England and Wales are reminded that Section 8 (1) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, is now in force. Any nurse who now takes the name or title of Registered Nurse unlawfully, is liable on summary conviction to a fine of £10 for a first offence, and for subsequent offences £50.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)