

MR. R. RICHARDSON: I beg to second the Motion. When this Measure for the registration of nurses was introduced, I always had my doubts about its efficiency, and apparently it has been a failure, but I have a hope of the present Minister of Health doing something better than his predecessor. The nurses must be protected. Their livelihood, their profession—and it is a noble profession—is at stake in this matter. People have been brought in to nurse the sick who have had no experience, and this has been to the detriment of those nurses who have been thrown out of employment. Amendment of the scheme is absolutely essential, and I hope the Minister of Health will do what he has been asked to do and have the new rules put into operation.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN): My hon. and gallant Friend the Member for South-West St. Pancras (Major Barnett) recognises that I am placed in a somewhat difficult position in this matter. I have only been in office a few days, and it has been impossible for me to make such investigations into the case the hon. and gallant Member desires to present that will be necessary before I could accept the Address on the Paper. In ordinary circumstances I would have asked my hon. Friend to postpone the matter, and I am sure he would have done so in courtesy, but the difficulty is that this is the last of the 21 days allowed in which an Address may be presented to His Majesty, and if my hon. friend withdraws his Resolution, unless he obtains some assurance from me, he is obliged to forego the right that is otherwise his. That is a position I ought to meet. If the Motion be withdrawn to-night, I will undertake to request the General Nursing Council to consider the amendments of my hon. friend, and ask them to draw up and submit to me such alterations as they may be prepared to make within the next 12 months. These alterations to the scheme, if they are approved by me, will be laid on the Table of the House, and will be open to discussion. I make that offer in the hope that my hon. friend will accept it as a fair compromise in the circumstances.

MAJOR BARNETT: I thank my right hon. friend for what he has said and for his endeavour to meet our case. With the leave of the House, I should like to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Thus once more is demonstrated the wisdom of prompt and courageous action. The Nursing Profession has again to thank Major Barnett for his effective and disinterested action in endeavouring to place its organisation on an efficient and self-governing basis.

The new Minister for Health has undertaken to refer the "Special Scheme" for the election of Registered Nurses on the General Nursing Council for reconsideration and amendment, to that body.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council will await the framing and publication of new amendments, and help members of Parliament to understand their significance.

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The thirty-third meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on Friday, March 16th, at the Ministry of Health, SIR WILMOT P. HERRINGHAM, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Chairman of the Council), presiding.

With the exception of Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Coode, and Lady Hobhouse, all the members of the Council were present.

### Minutes.

In connection with the Minutes, Miss BUSHBY enquired whether the letter from the College of Nursing, Ltd., mentioned on the Agenda of the last meeting as having been received, would be placed on the Minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that the letter was appended to the Report of the Registration Committee at the present meeting and said that when new business was received he always, unless the Council specially wished otherwise, referred it to the appropriate Committee. Councils of similar importance usually had a regulation that the Council should not consider any business until it had been referred to a Standing Committee. The General Nursing Council had made no such order, and therefore it was open to a Member of the Council to move that business be dealt with by the Council in the first instance. But unless this was done a letter was referred to a Standing Committee, and the Council got the letter with the report of the Committee upon it. That was the procedure which had been adopted to save time.

The Minutes were then signed as correct.

### Committee on Organisation.

THE CHAIRMAN announced that the next meeting of the Committee on Organisation would be held on Monday, March 19th, at 11.15 a.m.

### Publication of State Register of Nurses.

He then stated that the Register was out at last, the bringing out of the first issue had been a work of extreme difficulty. It was now to be obtained from the printers, Messrs. Butler & Tanner, 19, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. It would, no doubt, be the pleasure of the Council that certain complimentary copies should be sent. It would be necessary to supply them to the Police Courts, and it would certainly wish to send complimentary copies to the Ministry of Health.

MISS BUSHBY proposed that a complimentary copy should be sent to MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, to whom the nurses owed the State Register.

MISS WIESE seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think that could be done; the whole Council had established the Register, not Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

MISS BUSHBY: She won the Act, any way.

The motion, though moved and seconded, was not put to the meeting by the Chairman, as it should have been.

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