

whatsoever. The General Medical Council thirty or forty years ago did not hold an important position. There was no question about it now. It was the most important body in the profession, and everybody paid attention to what it wished. Licensing bodies, which had had things entirely in their own hands, now listened to what the General Medical Council said, and almost invariably made alterations without opposition.

The General Medical Council had proceeded entirely without compulsory powers, entirely by consulting people concerned and educational bodies, and entirely by gradually getting them to accept its views, that examinations and training ought to be raised. It produced reports to that effect, specified what it thought ought to be done, and then sent round to all the licensing bodies to ask for their consideration and opinion. Gradually it got its way and so had completely altered the examination and curriculum and years of training. They had completely changed the whole face of medical education, and done it without trying to make anything compulsory at all.

Now what was the Council doing? It was trying to make things compulsory,* and it was putting itself under the heel of the Ministry. It would not rely on itself or its own authority, and said it must have legal force behind it or it was no use. His own personal feeling was that the Council was losing not gaining in position. He would like it to be recognised as the head of the profession by consent, and gradually get its views accepted as the General Medical Council had done, as a representative body entitled to be heard. But he did not believe in going to the Ministry to get everything made compulsory. His own feeling was this was a wrong thing, and would weaken the position of the Council. They could not make it depend on the Ministry. Unfortunately they were tied to Parliament and the Government more than was consistent with their dignity, and far more than the General Medical Council, which was able to get its views accepted from time to time because it had not lost power. He appealed to them to recognise that their real title to power was the consent of the profession. In that way they would hold a position infinitely higher than by getting compulsory powers from the Ministry. He had long felt he should deliver himself in this sense and he had now taken the opportunity of doing so. As Chairman he would be prepared to dispute the authority of the Minister.

MISS BUSHBY seconded MISS VILLIERS' amendment.

MISS COX-DAVIES expressed the view that it would be absolutely wrong to go to the Minister to ask him to deal with the Syllabus.

DR. SMEDLEY enquired whether it was not proposed to make the Syllabus of Training for the General Part of the Register compulsory?

THE CHAIRMAN said it was proposed to issue it under the authority of the Council.

DR. SMEDLEY said he was asking for a ruling.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was decided to recommend to the Council that the Syllabus should not be returned to the Minister, but should be issued under the authority of the Council.

ON MISS VILLIERS' amendment being put to the meeting there voted—

For the Amendment.—Miss Villiers, Miss Bushby, Miss du Sautoy, Mr. Stratton, Miss Wiese, and Mr. Donaldson.

Against the Amendment.—Rev. G. B. Cronshaw, Miss Bremner, Miss Musson, Miss Sparshott, Miss Alsop, Miss Seymour-Yapp, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Cowlin, Miss E. Smith, Miss A. S. Barratt, Dr. Smedley, Dr. Goodall, and Sir Jenner Verrall.

Not Voting.—Dr. Bedford Pierce.

The Amendment was therefore lost.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE said he would like to see the Syllabus of Training bound up with the Syllabus of Examination. Not in any deceptive way.

MISS COWLIN moved to add to the recommendation the words:—

"And that on the cover of the Examination Syllabus be added the words, 'based on the Syllabus of Lectures and Demonstrations for Education in General Nursing.'"

This was seconded by MISS SPARSHOTT and lost on being put to the meeting, only three voting for it.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP said that DR. BEDFORD PIERCE's proposal was not in keeping with the decisions of the chair, to now add this, and take away freedom for training.

SIR JENNER VERRALL thought it was trying to get by a sidewind, in part, what they could not get from the Minister as a whole. An ingenious way of getting what one wanted. He hoped it would not be carried.

MISS BUSHBY enquired how the Council knew that the present Minister was not going to sign the Syllabus of General Training.

THE CHAIRMAN said there was continuity of policy in the Ministry.

MISS E. SMITH expressed the view that the Syllabus of Training was intended for the use of teachers, and MISS MUSSON that the proposal if adopted would confuse probationers.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE's motion, seconded by MISS COWLIN, was lost to add to the Committee's recommendation the words—

"And that the Syllabus of Training and that of Examination be issued under one cover."

The original recommendation was then approved.

"That the above amendments to the Preface be approved and that the Syllabus as amended be issued on the authority of the General Nursing Council."

The voting on this recommendation was as follows:—

For the Recommendation.—Rev. G. B. Cronshaw, Miss Bremner, Miss Musson, Miss Sparshott, Miss Alsop, Miss Seymour-Yapp, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Cowlin, Miss E. Smith, Miss A. S. Barratt, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Dr. Smedley, Dr. Goodall, Sir Jenner Verrall.

Against the Recommendation.—Miss Villiers, Miss

* According to the Act.—ED.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)