

in our opinion quite unnecessary—post, it is to be regretted that Miss Alsop supports such methods at headquarters.

Lady Hobhouse, in her apparent ignorance of public business, was prevented by the Chairman from moving a Resolution condoning the irregular, and in our opinion, illegal conduct of business connected with this appointment.

Miss Cox-Davies also does not apparently realise that the General Purposes Committee is a Statutory Committee, and consequently that matters of business referred to it by the Council cannot be trifled with by a Special Committee merely because it may be largely composed of the same persons.

We are glad to note that the Independent Members took a firm stand and carried their point that the appointment should be dealt with by the Committee to which it was referred, though their wise recommendation that the post, in common with others, should be advertised, was prevented by the majority group, the voting being 7 in favour of advertising it, and 12 against.

THE PROTECTED UNIFORM.

We regret to note that apparently nothing further has been done in regard to the protected uniform. We are bound to say that the proposal that indigo serge should be the material used is very unpopular, and certainly will not be adopted by those nurses who have been in the habit of wearing a less dowdy and dusty material. And why should Welsh nurses be compelled to wear the distinctive English Rose when they have a national emblem of their own?

It is high time that sketches of the proposed uniform and badge were available. If the State uniform is to be popular it must be smart and becoming as well as useful.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH, 1923.

TRAINED NURSES.

SIR WALTER DE FRECE asked the Prime Minister if he is aware that there are still various matters causing much unrest and friction among the trained nurses in the country, and thereby prejudicing the care of the sick of all classes; and whether, in these circumstances, he will appoint a Select Committee of the House of Commons to investigate the whole issue?

MR. BALDWIN: I am not aware that the care of the sick is being prejudiced by professional controversies within the nursing profession. The questions at issue were fully discussed in connection with the passing of the Nurses' Registration Act at the end of 1919; and I do not think that any occasion has arisen for the appointment of a Select Committee.

Remarks.—We think Mr. Baldwin will, before long, have occasion to change his mind.

APRIL 25th, 1923.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

MR. T. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister of Health whether he is aware of the growing resentment amongst registered nurses that the authority of their governing body, *i.e.*, the General Nursing Council for England

and Wales, has been usurped by medical men; that the nurses' certificates of registration are signed by two medical men alone, not having the signature of one registered nurse member of the Council upon them; that medical men are chairmen of the Council, finance, mental, and registration committees; that although the nurses supply all the money for the administration of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, the medical man appointed to the chair of the finance committee was elected by the casting vote of the chairman of the Council, himself a medical man, in spite of the fact that the nurse on that committee nominated for the position has special experience of finance; and whether he will make representations to the Council on this matter?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: There is no evidence of any such feeling in the nursing profession, and the marked increase in the number of recent applications for admission to the register seems to me to negative the suggestion contained in the hon. Member's question. The nurse members form two-thirds of the Council, and it is within their power to control the selection of committee. I understand that the chairman of three out of six standing committees are doctors, but I have no information as to the other points in the question, and I am not prepared to make representations to the Council on matters which are wholly within their discretion.

Remarks.—We note that the new Minister of Health has omitted to feel the pulse of the Nursing Profession. Nurses are now registering in large numbers because the term of grace terminates in a few weeks' time. We agree that the medical directorate has been set up by the (College) nurses on the Council.

MR. R. RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health if he is aware that certain members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales are appointing personal friends to lucrative posts in the General Nursing Council offices; that a lady who is a close personal friend of the Matron who is chairman of the general purposes committee, which committee was appointed by the Council to interview and appoint a suitable person, was appointed to the post of interviewing officer at a salary of £250 per annum without the full committee being summoned, thus making the appointment *ultra vires*; that, while this lady is already in receipt of a pension of £250 per annum from public funds and has no special qualifications for the post, many working nurses who have been incapacitated through war service from undertaking heavy work but who have fitted themselves for secretarial posts are needing employment; why, as all registered nurses are paying for the upkeep of the General Nursing Council offices, the nursing posts are not advertised, so that those belonging to other societies or to none can share in these appointments; and whether he will see that this is done with regard to the post of interviewing officer?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The General Nursing Council have not notified me whom they propose to appoint to the post of interviewing officer, nor are they under any obligation to do so, the selection being entirely within their discretion. This appointment is a temporary one for four months, and it is not customary to advertise for candidates to fill temporary posts of this kind.

Remarks.—We regret that the Minister did not condemn the evidence of graft in the illegal appointment of the Interviewing Officer, but we are informed that Miss Finch has had the grace to retire from a most untenable position.

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