

THE CHAIRMAN said the first point to settle was the question of mufti.

MISS BREMNER said many private nurses were going about inappropriately dressed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Piccadilly Circus nurses?

MISS BREMNER: Yes.

MR. F. W. STRATTON pointed out that if male nurses were not to wear mufti they must have a uniform.

MISS COWLIN said the point was one to which the Uniform Committee had given a great deal of consideration. At first they were inclined to think that the proposal that the Badge must be worn with an authorised uniform was a short-sighted one, but on further consideration they recognised its importance. The State Badge should not be worn on an undesirable uniform. In regard to male nurses, the male nurse did not embellish his attire in the way that female nurses sometimes did.

THE CHAIRMAN then put the following Amendment to the meeting in substitution for Recommendation 16 (c) and (d):—

"That the Badge be worn on any authorised outdoor uniform, or indoor uniform, or mufti."

Four voted for the Amendment and nine against it. It was therefore lost.

DR. GOODALL then moved:—

"That the Badge be worn only with the uniform authorised by the Council."

This was not seconded, and so fell to the ground.

MISS COODE considered that the word "authorised" was intended to apply largely to Queen's Nurses.

MR. DONALDSON pointed out that all the Registered Nurses on the Council had the privilege of being members of the Uniform Committee.

Recommendation 16, as amended, was then referred back to the Uniform Committee with the request for a definition of the word "authorised" as used in the Recommendation.

Recommendation 17 was agreed.

Recommendation 18 gave rise to considerable discussion.

DR. GOODALL did not understand the recommendation, and asked who it was proposed should enter into a contract with this firm?

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP pointed out that it allowed of no competition. This firm could charge exactly what it liked. The proposal was economically unsound.

MISS SPARSHOTT said that any firm could procure the material through Messrs. Boyd Cooper.

MISS WIESE said that the Committee chose the design for uniform submitted by this firm.

MR. DONALDSON disagreed with one firm having the exclusive right to supply the material.

MISS COX DAVIES said she wished to speak strongly in favour of one material being supplied; the firm recommended was a very well known one.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP was of opinion that tenders should be invited, and asked that tenders be obtained from associations in which nurses have shares.

MISS COWLIN upheld the recommendation that a contract should be entered into for one year.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Council could approve the design for the coat, but spoke strongly against the remainder of the recommendation. He pointed out that the Council was asked to enter into a contract which was not before it. The recommendation should have been brought up in a more business-like way. He was sorry to take a side, but it was necessary to put the situation before them.

On being put to the vote, the Recommendation was lost.

Recommendation 19 was agreed.

The Report, as a whole, as amended, was then approved.

The Public Business then concluded, and the Council proceeded (1) to interview solicitors with a view to appointing a solicitor to the Council, and (2) to consider applications for registration *in camera*.

The Report of the Education Committee (3) and of the General Purposes Committee (6) will be published next week.

REMARKS.

THE SYLLABUS OF TRAINING.

The second letter from the Minister of Health, one of the most important documents yet signed by the Minister and addressed to the Council, should have been typed, and on the table for its consideration. Its effect is practically to support the new Council in the substitution of a skeleton Examination Syllabus, for the full, and complete, "prescribed" Syllabus of Training which the Nurses' Registration Act directs *shall* be compulsory.

The action of Sir Wilmot Herringham, Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in substituting an Advisory for a Compulsory Syllabus of Training is entirely *ultra vires*, and proves his ignorance in connection with Nurses' Registration on the General Part of the Register through the one portal system, for which we have worked for thirty years, and which was granted to us in our Nurses' Registration Act.

Our opinion is that Sir Wilmot Herringham had never read the English Act—he owned to the Council he had never read the Scottish one—before he made that stupendous blunder, when the deputation from the Association of Poor Law Unions (which did not include one nurse) was received by the Council on October 6th last, and informed it that the Syllabus of Training was "nothing but a model for the help of the Training Schools," and that "no nurse coming up for examination would be asked whether she had been trained on it or not." On three occasions the late Council re-affirmed its approval of the Syllabus of Training for the General Part of the Register, drafted by the Education Committee after most serious consideration almost weekly for sixteen months.

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