

tions of the Council on their success in the recent Parliamentary elections. Dr. Chapple wrote: "If I can be of any service, you know how pleased and proud I shall be, for if the fight has been won the fruits have not yet been all realised," and Major Barnett wrote: "I can never be sufficiently grateful to the nurses for all that they did for me."

#### REPORT RE ELECTION OF NURSES, GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick commented on the result of the Election of the 16 Nurse Representatives. As had been expected, where the College of Nursing, Ltd., through Rule 9 (A) had provided for preferential treatment for its members, and had been able largely to control the Electorate in regard to the General Part of the Register, its nominees had with one exception, been returned. In the case of the Special Registers where it could not exercise such control no College nominee had been returned. The nurses on every Special Register had sent an Independent Candidate to the Council. She warmly congratulated Miss A. M. Bushby on her election to the Council, and the nurses on the Sick Children's Register for their perspicacity in electing her. The meeting thoroughly endorsed these sentiments.

The Report was, the Chairman said, not a pleasing one. The Nursing Profession was probably the only one which had to contend with such reprehensible tactics, backed by unlimited wealth. There had been a campaign of villifying the Independent Candidates, and representing them, quite unjustifiably, as contentious people. There had also been an uninstructed electorate, which had succumbed to this infamous system of defamation, but the electorate could not be wholly excused. More courage, conscientiousness, and love of truth would have ensured a different result. She feared there was not much hope of raising the Nursing Profession for another decade, nothing would be done until the nurses had found their conscience. You could not pour out of a pitcher what was not in it.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

The meeting unanimously agreed to the following Resolutions:—

A Resolution taking exception to the mismanagement by the Chairman of the Council as Returning Officer, of the recent Election, and the unnecessary expenses consequently incurred and defrayed out of the nurses' money, and demanding that he be made to refund the cost of the second Election.

A Resolution to be sent to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, demanding the following returns in connection with the recent Election:—The number of the electorate; the number in each section; how many voted in each section; how many were rejected and for what reasons.

Also protesting against the opening of the envelopes before the candidates entitled to be present were there, and disqualifying such Ballot Papers as the Returning Officer chose without submission to the Assessors and Candidates.

A Resolution to the Minister of Health, protesting against the packing of the electorate through Rule 9 (A), the provisions of the "prescribed scheme" for Election, and the irregularity, and waste of money on the Election.

A Resolution objecting to the conduct of the Registration Committee and General Nursing Council in refusing to place on the Register 800 Nurses who had applied within the prescribed time, and whose papers were in order, thus depriving them of their right of exercising the franchise in the recent Election.

The next business was to receive a Report of replies from Candidates for the recent Parliamentary Election to a Circular sent to them.

A very encouraging report was presented.

It was agreed to take vigorous action to defend both the Civic and Professional rights of nurses, for the benefit of the sick and the Nursing Profession, and two sub-committees were appointed to organise the work.

An encouraging number of new members were elected. The meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Sec.*

## PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A members' meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses was held at 6, Nottingham Place, W., on February 1st, by the kind permission of Mrs. Northwood. The Chair was taken by Mrs. Paul.

(a) A very useful informal discussion took place and a good deal of information was acquired with regard to the nursing conditions under the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

(b) Seldom have nurses been roused to such a pitch of indignation over anything as they have been at present by the treatment which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the other Independent Nurses—including the Secretary of the Union—have received at the hands of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

The Chairman, in her Address, pointed out that while all the Independent Nurses on the General Part of the Register (over which the College of Nursing had control) have been turned out of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Supplementary Parts over which the College of Nursing had no control have each returned an *Independent Candidate*. The General Nursing Council has under its present constitution, therefore, no democratic representation, and she emphasised the necessity that nurses should combine and manage their own affairs if they did not wish to become absolute slaves. So far, nurses had lacked co-ordination and organisation.

She referred to the very great disgrace to the whole nursing profession which had been caused by the act of a small majority of nurses (members of the College of Nursing) in voting so as to exclude from the General Nursing Council Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who had worked for nurses for thirty years (before ever the College of Nursing was thought of), and who had drafted the very

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