

first Nurses' Registration Bill brought before Parliament. She was one of the great pioneers in the nursing world, and the only British one of modern times who was known all over the world.

She condemned the College Matrons who had sold the Nursing Profession for their own self aggrandisement, and contended that they had ceased to be nurses, and had simply degenerated into employers' agents.

She pointed out that now was the great chance for free nurses to organise and be self-supporting, financially and otherwise, stating that no organisation could be self-respecting unless it was also self-supporting. If nurses wanted to have control of their profession, they must work for it *and pay for it*, unless they wished to emulate the College nurses who were so willing to accept charity from anyone who offered it to them, thus proving themselves to be nothing more than parasites and unfit for self-government.

During the discussion which followed many members expressed their indignation over the manner in which the election had been manipulated by the College, with the consent of the Ministry of Health, and two, on their own initiative, started a Defence Fund for the expenses of the Union in connection with this matter, the proposer remarking that as nurses were to be found disinterested enough to fight for the Profession and for those who were unable to do so for themselves, the least the rank and file could do would be to provide them with the sinews of war. An unexpected amount of money was subscribed on the spot, and more promised.

Two resolutions dealing with the matter were proposed, seconded by two nurses present, and passed unanimously, the Chairman being asked to forward them to the Minister of Health, and also to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, with a covering letter to her expressing the grateful thanks of the nurses and their unbounded admiration for the honest and straightforward manner in which she had always conducted the nurses' affairs.

The Secretary reported that the Union had made considerable headway since the last Members' meeting, and pointed out to those present that the Trade Union now was the principal thing that stood between them and serfdom. That if the Union was to become of more use in the future even than it had been in the past, they must make up their minds to work for it and to get as many new members as possible. They already had definite proof that "Union is Strength" in their dealings with employers and hospital authorities.

She emphasised the fact that if anyone attempted to coerce a nurse in any way with regard to joining or remaining a member of the Union, it would be possible for the Union to take legal proceedings against them, as a trade union was a form of association definitely recognised by the State.

Resolution Passed at a Members' Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, held on the 1st February, 1923.

That this Members' Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses protests with the greatest

indignation against the manner in which with the support (privately given) of the late Minister of Health (Sir Alfred Mond), the College of Nursing, Ltd., governed by Hospital Authorities, have been able to pack the electorate of the General Nursing Council, so that those representing the Independent Working Nurses on the General Part of the Register have been excluded from it, and only Members of the College of Nursing elected. This has been made possible by the fact that:—

(1) The College had the Majority Vote upon the late nominated Council;

(2) That, having this Majority Vote, they were able, with the support of the lay and medical members, to exclude from the Registration Committee the Independent Nurses, keeping the Registration business in their own hands.

(3) That the only three Nurses employed in the General Nursing Council Offices—the Registrar, the Assistant Registrar, and the Registrar's Clerk—are College Members.

They call upon the Minister of Health to hold an enquiry into the manner in which the business of the late General Nursing Council has been conducted.

Resolution Passed at a Members' Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses held on the 1st February, 1923.

That this Members' Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses desires to place on record its very great indignation at the manner in which Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been excluded from the General Nursing Council by the deliberate arrangement of the College of Nursing, Ltd. That this lady, who originated the idea of Registration, worked for it and paid for it for over thirty years, whose name is known and honoured all over the civilised world wherever nursing work is recognised, should be superseded by a College Matron who has strenuously opposed Registration and signed the manifestoes against it, and also by another College Matron who sought to deprive Nurses of the record of their certificates on the State Register in order to hide the fact that the College Council had published an incorrect Register, recording certificates against the names of certain of their members who do not possess them, is an open scandal that requires a most searching public enquiry.

(Signed) WINIFREDE PAUL.

ULSTER NURSING COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council (Northern Ireland), held in the Council Office, Great Victoria Street, Belfast—Colonel Dawson, C.M.O., presiding—it was decided to recommend certain modifications of the Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council Act (Northern Ireland), 1922, as desirable in case of new legislation.

No doubt Northern Ireland Nurses will be consulted before their Council recommends alterations in the Act under which they are registered. Now Nurses have legal status they should take an intelligent interest in the government and Rules of their profession.

According to a new bacteriological theory, advanced by Dr. d'Herelle, of the Pasteur Institute, germs are subject to attack by other germs, and fall sick of diseases peculiar to themselves.

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