

The Reply.

Mr. Cosmo Bonsor, Treasurer Guy's Hospital, who showed great good humour throughout the proceedings, and on whom rested the onus of defending the Financiers' Scheme (Sir E. Cooper Perry was not present to support him), made a feeble reply to the objections which had been raised. Dealing with the first objection, that the scheme had been promoted by seven gentlemen in the City of London who knew nothing of nursing—these gentlemen had been approached by trained ladies and asked to undertake the formation of a company. The Council would consist of trained nurses and medical men. They were not opposed to State Registration; they were neutral. The time was not yet opportune to go to Parliament for this reform. (Two Bills were before Parliament at this time.)

Mr. Holland asked for the names of the Matrons who were supporting the scheme. Beyond those of Miss Swift and Miss C. J. Wood he could obtain none.

Mr. Bonsor said they would be announced when the signatories had obtained their certificate from the Board of Trade.

This did not satisfy Mr. Holland, who appealed to the Chair to have the names disclosed before, not after, the Board had given its decision. The whole united nursing and medical worlds were against the scheme. No one wanted it.

The Chairman said he could not compel Mr Bonsor to disclose the names.

Mr. Bonsor remained obdurate.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked all present for coming. He assured them their time had not been wasted. A shorthand note of the proceedings had been taken, and would be carefully read by Lord Salisbury, President of the Board of Trade.

REPLY FROM THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Board of Trade,

June 7th, 1905.

MADAM,—Since the hearing of objections on May 5th, a request has been received by the Board of Trade from the promoters of the proposed Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses, that the consideration of their application by the Board of Trade should be deferred until the Bills now before Parliament for the Registration of Nurses have been disposed of.

The consideration of the application will accordingly stand over.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. BARNES.

To Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,
Hon. Sec., Society for the State
Registration of Nurses.

Thus, for the time being the attempt to place the control of professional nurses in the hands of unprofessional persons was averted.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.**RULE 49, AND THE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.**

Rule 49 of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales provides that "All minutes, registers and records shall be open to the inspection of members of the Council during the Registrar's business hours."

This "right" was denied to two members of the late Council—Miss Isabel Macdonald and Miss A. Cattell—by Miss M. Riddell, the Registrar, and Sir Wilmot Herringham, the Chairman of the Council.

This breach of the Rules was later brought to the notice of the Ministry of Health through a question in the House of Commons, in reply to which the Ministry promised to make an inquiry and communicate later with the questioner. Nothing further transpired publicly in the House, and from that day to this neither Miss Macdonald or Miss Cattell have received the apology from the Chairman and the Registrar which was their due. No doubt had a medical practitioner or a lady of title claimed their right to inspect documents they would have been obsequiously permitted to do so. But a mere nurse! What right has she interfering with her own professional affairs, even if a member of its Statutory Governing Body?

Needless to say, this insulting bureaucracy is very bitterly resented by Registered Nurses, and it is time it was remedied. Nothing but publicity will establish the Registered Nurses' right to courtesy in their own office.

Correspondence between Miss Maud Wiese, R.M.N., Member General Nursing Council, the Chairman, and the Registrar.

We have been invited to publish the following correspondence between Miss Maud Wiese, Member of the General Nursing Council, the Chairman, and the Registrar:—

Claybury Mental Hospital,
Woodford Bridge, Essex,

June 19th, 1923.

DEAR SIR,—You will have heard of an interview I have had with the Registrar of the General Nursing Council. I have definitely understood that the latest date on which applications from existing nurses could be received was July 14th, 1923. A circular confirming this was recently sent round to all mental hospitals.

Last week I had information from two sources that a communication had been received from Miss Riddell by the Registrar of the College of Nursing, Ltd., that applications from members of the College could be received even twelve months after

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