

I then gave notice that as this all-important question remained undecided, that the names of those voting for and against the record of certificates would be recorded. The next thing was to make sure that a full report of the proceedings should reach the Council, and this I took steps to effect. Both resolutions had been lost, so no recommendation in the form of a resolution was practicable; but Rule 44 (2) (Powers of Council) provides that "each Committee . . . shall report its proceedings to the Council."

When, therefore, I received from the Registrar an emasculated Report of the business of the Registration Committee for the Council, to be initialled, I added in red ink what "proceedings" in my judgment it was my duty to present, and the duty of the Council to receive.

This action on my part was, of course criticised, as usual behind my back, by those who prefer to *vote in the dark*. By this time I had thrown my bonnet over the Border, and my enemies were legion. Every publicity possible, in the time, was given to the proposal to degrade certificated nurses, with resulting ruin, when Certification by Examination by the G.N.C. came into force in 1924.

The free nurses' organisations realised the danger (the College clique, as usual, were dumb); they met, agitated, protested in good old British style, and at the next meeting of the Council on November 18th, 1921, that autocratic body was snowed under with letters and resolutions of protest. In the absence of Mr. Priestley, Sir T. Jenner Verrall took the chair, and a letter was read from Mr. Priestley expressing the opinion "that if the Council decided *not* to insert Certificates, it would not deprive nurses of them."

Special pleading much to be regretted!

Before the meeting opened Dr. Goodall attempted to persuade me not to present the Registration Report in the form in which it had been drafted and circulated.

Too much was at stake for any wobbling; I therefore refused to alter my decision.

In my turn on the Agenda I therefore proposed that the Report of the Registration Committee be received.

Dr. Goodall objected to certain paragraphs appearing in the Report—paragraphs recording the resolutions, and the names of those voting for and against the insertion of certificates on the published Register.

I then dealt with the recommendations *seriatim*.

When we reached item No. 4, which dealt with "Nurses' qualifications on the published Register," the Chairman drew attention to Rule 44, which provides that "any recommendations which a Committee may make shall, as far as practicable, be in the form of resolutions, to be considered by the Council."

I was well aware that the whole of item 4. was a record—not a resolution, but I took my stand on Rule 44 (2) that each Committee shall "report its proceedings" to the Council.

I was then permitted by the Chairman to move item 4 "as a record."

Discussion followed. Nurses spoke of course, in support of record of certificates.

Dr. Goodall moved that the offending paragraphs (which recorded his betrayal of the Nurses) should be deleted.

Dr. Bedford Pierce seconded Dr. Goodall's motion.

Miss Cox-Davies supported to delete (the paragraphs also put on record *her* betrayal of her cloth).

I replied that I took full responsibility for the Report. I said Reports and Minutes were often so emasculated that I doubted if our successors would know what had been done. This was a polite way of intimating that they were "cooked."

On being put to the vote Dr. Goodall's motion was, of course, carried (supported by College group, ladies of title, and medical practitioners).

I protested against the mutilation of the Report.

But my object to secure publicity was attained. If people wished to ruin the Register—I was determined they should fight in the open.

As the detailed Report had been read, I reported it in full in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which I had a right to do. This apparently gave great offence—but the rights and status of 50,000 certificated nurses in connection with the State Register, was not a question for petty tyrants to decide behind closed doors.

It meant economic independence to thousands of working men and women, and without publicity this dangerous deed of darkness could not be prevented. It also meant that the animus of these petty tyrants would be focussed on my removal from the Council, and the devious and despicable methods by which they attempted my professional ruin will be set forth in detail next week.

Sir Jenner Verrall from the Chair made the position clear. He pointed out—as set out in a letter from the Ministry—that it was still necessary to raise in the Council that the First Schedule should be altered, if it were desired certificates be entered on the Register. That could be done by giving ten days' statutory notice.

After this tussle with the powers of reaction I went straight home and drafted an amended First Schedule, which was proposed by me at the next meeting of the Council on February 3rd (after the discreditable "strike" of the "anti-certs"), which provided:—

QUALIFICATIONS.

"Under this heading shall appear the qualification in each case for admission to the Register (including certificate of training, if any), the dates of obtaining such qualification, and the hospital, or hospitals, in which such qualifying training has been received."

This was seconded by Miss MacCallum, and it was unanimously agreed! It was approved and signed by the Minister of Health, was laid before Parliament, and thus became law.

Now turn to your published Register and realise

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