

I then moved that 1,535 applications for Registration, scrutinised by the loyal minority of the Council, be approved, as, failing a quorum, the Registration Committee had been unable to carry out its work since November. This was agreed. Thus funds were available to carry on the duties of the Council.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Then the policy of those who had for ten weeks enjoyed "a restful interregnum" in contempt of the nurses' interests, to penalise me for my "contumacy" became apparent. Dr. Goodall and Miss Cox-Davies gave notice of three Motions—one in the name of Miss Coulton, who had not attended the Council for six months—to be moved at the next meeting of the Council—hurriedly summoned a fortnight thence, February 17th.

1. Provided that the officials of nurses' organizations should have power to declare a member eligible for Registration—without producing written evidence to the General Nursing Council, if she had produced a Certificate or certified copy to the officials of the Society.

This made it possible for Members of the College of Nursing to be given preferential terms for State Registration—and to be hurried on to the Register, out of their turn, without first-hand evidence or delay.

2. Provided for a general re-shuffle of all the Standing Committees—nine months before the demise of the Council—so that I could be voted off the Registration Committee—and the new preferential policy inaugurated without question.

3. Provided that the Registration Committee should be deprived of the power of scrutinising application forms and references—excepting those of cases which the Registrar chose to consider "doubtful."

Thus the whole plot was exposed.

Preference for College members—to swamp the electorate.

Power to eliminate independent members from any Standing Committee who objected to jobs.

Absolute power for the Senior Salaried Official—Miss M. S. Riddell, the Registrar.

Conditions, of course, to which no honourable person could submit in the performance of public duty, and which later the General Nursing Council for Scotland described as "a delegation of the statutory duties of the Council likely to lead to many unnecessary difficulties."

I left the meeting fully realising that the Minister of Health and the new Chairman were cognisant of, and in sympathy with, the determination of Dr. Goodall, now closely associated with "College" policy, to eliminate from power in the Nurses' Governing Body any nurse who dared to oppose lay and medical control of her profession.

I had dared, and the majority of the Council—who have treated professional self-government for nurses as anathema—concentrated their bitter animus upon me, as will be proved in my next report.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

(To be continued.)

## LEAGUE NEWS.

### THE ANNUAL REUNION OF THE GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY NURSES.

"Be true to the best that is in thee."

The Third Annual Reunion of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses, as we reported last week, was held at the Trades House, Glasgow, on December 7th. The guests were welcomed by Miss Steuart Donaldson, R.R.C., Matron of the Royal Infirmary and President of its Nurses' League, Miss Williamson, Miss Duncan, and other members of the G.R.I. Nursing Staff, backed up by Dr. James Macfarlane, D.L., L.L.D., Chairman of the Board of Management, who also presided at the dinner at which a large and representative gathering assembled. On his right hand he was supported by Miss Donaldson, and on his left by Mrs. Strong. Many letters were received expressing the regret of the writers at their absence, and many good wishes, including those of Miss Janet Melrose, R.R.C., who succeeded Mrs. Strong as Matron, and who sent greetings to all friends at the League Dinner and regrets that she could not be present. A telegram in reply was sent to Miss Melrose.

#### TOASTS.

The following was the toast list offered:

"The King," proposed by the Chairman, and duly honoured.

"The Glasgow Royal Infirmary," proposed by Dr. McGregor, who said he was delighted to propose the toast of the "Auld hoose."

Dr. Rutherford responded, and referring to the Nursing Staff, said that in the fifties and sixties things were very primitive in the Royal Infirmary. It was well on in the eighties when the change took place. From then to now things had moved quickly, thanks to the teaching of Florence Nightingale and the wonderful matronships of Mrs. Strong and Miss Melrose.

"The Medical Staff," submitted in very suitable words by Miss Maguire, the oldest G.R.I. nurse living.

Dr. Kay said it was a duty and honour to reply. He often wondered what the nurses thought of their chiefs. The decision he had come to was that Probationers looked upon them as superior beings, Senior Nurses had a respect for them, but the Sisters had only a kindly tolerance for them.

"The Past Nurses," proposed by Dr. Middleton, who said he could go back to 1870 and tell of the condition of nursing at that time. He made special mention of a very faithful nurse—Mrs. Martin—and referred to one who rushed for the help of the house surgeon, exclaiming as she went that a patient's "emerald artery was flowing fluently."

Dr. Middleton referred to the splendid work done by Sister Bella, for long a Sister in his own wards, and Miss Maguire. He said further Mrs. Strong had introduced a system of training quite new to the nursing world which had proved eminently successful. He had been associated with her in lecturing to the nurses.

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