

I protested at the injustice of the proceedings. The Chairman then threatened to leave the Chair unless I sat down, and no action upon his part would have been more becoming for the dignity of the Council!

At the next meeting, no reference whatever was made on the Minutes to this disgraceful episode. I asked that it should be recorded. It was postponed. Ultimately, the Chairman's views were inserted on the Minutes, but my protest and demand that my letter should be read was excluded.

Incidentally, I ask the public and defenceless Nurses what chance of fair treatment would be theirs, if judged by such a body of persons as compose the General Nursing Council for England and Wales? There can be but one answer.

#### REVENONS À NOS MOUTONS.

At this meeting, on March 17th, I presented, for the last time, the Report of the Registration Committee, and refused to recommend for registration persons of whose credentials I knew nothing (the Registrar alone having had access to them). Of course, the Council gaily agreed to register the forty-seven applicants, whose references the Registration Committee had never seen.

#### ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

When the business on the Agenda, "To receive Nominations and to elect Committees," was reached, I asked the Chairman if, as Major Barnett proposed to move, in the House of Commons, on March 21st, that Rules 9 (a) and 43 (2), then lying on the table, be annulled, it was proposed to hastily carry them into effect, before the House had arrived at a conclusion?

He replied curtly in the affirmative.

The pre-arranged lists of members to compose Standing Committees were then voted upon.

From the Registration Committee I was the only member ejected, and to add insult to injury, the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills, a woman with no knowledge whatever of our professional needs, and apparently entirely out of sympathy with our professional aspirations, was elected to fill my place!

Thus the College policy was secure.

I was also eliminated, with Miss MacCallum, from the General Purposes Committee, and the same wealthy woman of title elected to my seat.

Miss Susan Villiers had a rap over the knuckles for doing her public duty, by being removed from the Education Committee (thus depriving Fever Nurses of an expert on the Committee) to find room for Lady Hobhouse, whose only contribution to professional construction, had been a proposal to institute another Supplementary Register, for the admission of village nurses with short term training, and thus further undermine the economic status of registered district nurses, by placing cheap and inefficiently trained persons in competition with them!

At the next meeting of the Registration Committee Dr. Goodall, proposed by Miss Cox-Davies and seconded by Mrs. Eustace Hills, was elected Chairman, and thus received the reward for his

very active participation in the intrigue to remove me from office. He now signs all Registered Nurses' Certificates, with the Chairman, more than one of which has been consigned to the flames!

#### SEMITIC ARROGANCE.

On March 22nd the historic attack upon the liberties of British nurses was made in the House of Commons by Sir Alfred Mond, the Minister of Health.

A report *in extenso* appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on April 1st, 1922. Never was a more specious, mean, and inaccurate attack made by a Minister of the Crown upon any question than by this arrogant politician of alien race and antecedents. Suffice it to say that he had been kept in the dark by those who should have supplied him with accurate information, which only came to his knowledge through Major Barnett and Captain Elliot during the course of his hotly partisan speech to the House of Commons. Nevertheless, he flung baseless accusations and statements around which were calculated to mislead Members present.

In his ardent support of the policy of the unconstitutional methods of the Council, and of their illegal Rule 9 (a) Sir Alfred Mond reached the apex of arrogance when he threatened, if it was rejected, "there would be no other course left open to him than to move the repeal of the Act, and do away with the Register altogether."

This was an untrue statement, as he had the power under the Act to dissolve the Council and give the nurses the chance of electing their own representatives.

Women in the galleries who listened to this mendacious Semitic bluff—women who had spent their lives, and thousands of pounds in obtaining their legal status through the Nurses' Registration Act—saw red. Thus are sown the seeds of revolution—and pogroms!

The Coalition Government (most venal of combinations) put on their Whips; and by a narrow majority of 15 the College policy was thrust upon us.

The field was now clear for the capture of the Council at the forthcoming election. Rule 9 (a) had now Statutory force. But imagine our surprise when next we saw it in print to find that it had been altered after having been voted upon, and agreed in Council. The word "certified" had been eliminated. The truth leaked out that the College officials could not make a "declaration" as required by the Rule—that "certified" copies of certificates of members had been seen and verified, because the College had compiled its Register in some instances on mere uncertified "copies" of the nurses' certificates!

I brought this serious "inadvertence" to the notice of the Council, and moved to re-insert the word "certified." Hopeless. The Chairman denied that the Rule had been tampered with, although there was a consensus of evidence *in print* that it had been. THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, the *Nursing Mirror* and *The Poor Law Officers' Journal* having unanimously printed Rule 9 (a), including the word "certified" as it

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