

Report of the Registration Committee.

Miss Musson, Chairman of the Registration Committee, reported the procedure in regard to the non-payment of Retention Fees. Further, that the Committee had instructed the Registrar that, in addition to the letters sent to individuals in August of each year, reminding them that Retention Fees are due the following month, a notice to the same effect should be inserted in the Nursing Papers during the month of October.

ELECTION SCHEME.

Miss Musson reported that, as the Council did not accept the recommendation of the Committee at its last meeting, the Committee had further considered this question. The following Scheme, drawn up by the Chairman of Council in order to satisfy the Resolution of Council in April, was placed before the Council.

Miss Musson said that, as Chairman of the Registration Committee, she had to bring this Recommendation forward, but that she did not approve of it.

Recommendation :—

"That of the 11 places reserved for nurses on the General Register 6 be filled by nurses who are or have been Matrons of Hospitals approved as complete Training Schools, of which

- 2 shall be Metropolitan Voluntary Hospitals.
- 1 shall be a Metropolitan Poor Law Hospital.
- 2 shall be Provincial Voluntary Hospitals.
- 1 shall be a Provincial Poor Law Hospital,

Provided that those of such Matrons who shall be candidates shall be divided into two classes, of which—

"Class I shall be composed of Matrons who at the date of the election hold, or within three years previous have held that position, and

"Class II shall be composed of those Matrons who have ceased to hold that position more than three years previously to the date of the election ;

"And that those three candidates of Class I who have received the greatest number of votes in that Class be declared to be elected ;

"And that the remainder of Class I and those of Class II be then combined together, and those three of the number so formed who have received the greatest number of votes be declared to be elected."

THE CHAIRMAN said that three Motions, dealing with the Election Scheme, had been placed on the Agenda, and he had also received an Amendment from Miss Sparshott, which was not printed.

He proposed to ask Mr. DONALDSON to move the first part of his Motion, which was "that all previous Resolutions concerning the Election Scheme, for the representation of the General Part of the Register, be rescinded." This was done.

These Motions would be moved seriatim, if one of them were carried, it then became the Substantive Motion. He then called on MISS BREMNER to move the Motion standing in her name. This provided :—

"That of the 11 seats reserved for Registered Nurses, 5 shall be reserved for Nurses, who at the time of the election are, or have been, Matrons of approved Complete Training Schools, of which one shall be a Metropolitan Voluntary Hospital, one a Provincial Voluntary Hospital, one a Metropolitan Poor Law Hospital, and one a Provincial Poor Law Hospital, and the fifth a Voluntary Hospital, either Metropolitan or Provincial."

In addition, one place would be filled by a representative of Public Health and District Nurses, one of Private Nurses, and one a Sister-Tutor, leaving three open places.

This was seconded by Miss Smith.

MISS BREMNER said that she thought at first that an Open Election was best, but the heads of schools must be represented, and if they were not elected, they might find themselves directed by those not in charge of Nursing Education. The advice of Private Nurses on the subject of discipline outside the Hospitals, would be most valuable.

The Motion was lost, six voting for it, and eleven against it.

The second Motion was moved by Mr. DONALDSON, who desired that four places should be reserved for Matrons of approved Training Schools, and that the remaining seven seats should be thrown open to all Registered Nurses.

The Motion was not seconded, and, therefore, fell through.

MISS SPARSHOTT moved, and MISS ALSOP seconded :—

"That the Scheme put forward at the last Council Meeting be accepted without the time limit, that is, that of the eleven Nurses elected to represent the Nurses who are on the General Part of the Register, six shall be Matrons, who at the time of the Election are, or have been, Matrons of an approved Complete Training School, of which two shall be Matrons of Metropolitan Voluntary Hospitals, one of a Metropolitan Poor Law Hospital, two of Provincial Voluntary Hospitals, and one of a Provincial Poor Law Hospital."

Three other seats (as previously recommended by the Council) to be filled by a Public Health or District Nurse, a Private Nurse and a Sister-Tutor.

Mr. DONALDSON pointed out that Miss Sparshott's Motion was not on the Agenda.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was an Amendment to the Committee's Recommendation.

MISS SPARSHOTT, in moving the Amendment, said that Matrons were in the same position as other people, and if they became slack they would not be elected.

On a Division, called for by Miss BUSHBY, there voted.

For the Amendment :—Miss Alsop, Miss Bremner, Miss Coode, Miss Cox-Davies, the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills, Lady Hobhouse, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Musson, Dr. Smedley, Miss Smith, Miss Sparshott, and Miss Seymour Yapp.

Against : Miss Bushby, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Stratton, Miss Villiers, and Miss Weise.

The Amendment was therefore carried and became the Substantive Motion.

MISS VILLIERS, seconded by Miss BUSHBY, then moved her Motion as an Amendment :—

"That the whole of the eleven seats reserved for Registered Nurses be open to all Registered Nurses."

MISS VILLIERS said she moved this Amendment for two reasons, firstly because it was the only really democratic way of conducting the Election, and secondly, however carefully they tried to define the representation she feared that if this method were not adopted they would leave out someone who would be useful to the Council. In defining the Scheme of Election the Council was legislating for the future, not for the present only.

Miss Musson was of opinion that the proposal, if adopted, might result in a great preponderance of Matrons. It might, of course, be possible to have a preponderance the other way, but the great objection was that if the Council did not allot the places the Nurses' Associations would do so.

MISS LLOYD STILL supported Miss Musson's views.

Mr. STRATTON supported the Motion. He considered it unfair to say there must be six Matrons. This would mean there would always be a preponderance of Matrons.

MISS COX DAVIES thought they were making a mistake in discussing this. Matrons were nurses also. The Council was concerned with the education of the on-coming nurse, and the Matrons were those who, in the hospitals were directing nursing education. She deprecated the division of Matrons and nurses.

MISS WEISE said she remembered the complications of the last ballot paper. It was said that nurses were stupid and unbusinesslike people, therefore the election should be as simple as possible.

On a division there voted :—

For the Amendment : Miss Bushby, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Stratton, Miss Villiers, and Miss Weise.

Against : Miss Alsop, Miss Bremner, Miss Coode, Miss Cox-Davies, Lady Hobhouse, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Musson, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Dr. Smedley, Miss Smith, Miss Sparshott, and Miss Seymour Yapp.

The Amendment was therefore lost.

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