

undergone. For this purpose the Minister is advised that the requirements of the sub-section will be met by a simple rule providing for the total period of training required for each part of the Register, and providing also that the nurse shall have received instruction in all the subjects included in the Syllabus of Examination, which will be scheduled to the rules."

Thus were the nurses jockeyed out of their right to "prescribed" training, and the Nursing Schools exempted from providing it.

On December 15th, 1922, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick stated the letter from the Minister of Health *re* Syllabus of General Training had not been reported on by the Education Committee as directed. She proposed:—

"That the Minister of Health be invited at once to sign the Syllabus unanimously agreed to by this Council to carry into effect Section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act."

This was carried by nine votes to four, the effect of the Resolution being that Recommendation (4) of the Education Committee in regard to issuing the Syllabus under its own authority, thus leaving it optional, was deleted from the Report.

The new Council came into office in February, 1923. At the meeting on February 16th the Minister of Health wrote that as regards the training Syllabus he would be glad if the Council would give further consideration to the proposal that it should at any rate for the present be treated as advisory, and that its adoption should not be made a condition of approval of Nurse Training Schools.

On March 16th, 1923, Mr. Donaldson moved an amendment to the Report of the Education Committee, namely—

"That the Syllabus of Training be returned to the Minister with the request that he will sign it." This was lost.

Miss Villiers moved that the Minister be asked to point out what modifications he thinks it is desirable to make in the Syllabus of Training. This was lost, and the Council decided to issue the Syllabus as amended on the authority of the General Nursing Council, which, we contend, was an illegal action.

On June 15th, 1923, the Minister (Mr. Neville Chamberlain) wrote that he was not at present prepared to issue a compulsory Syllabus of Training.

Since which time the Council has lapsed into futility so far as the rights of the Nurses are concerned in this connection.

It now remains to be proved, if bureaucratic obstruction in the Ministry of Health will be permitted to prevent the organisation of systematic Nursing Education, as provided for in the Nurses' Registration Act, or if justice will be done by a Labour Ministry. This must now be put to the test.

MRS. FENWICK advised every nurse to realise that Parliament has given her certain rights, and that it was *her duty* to secure them.

She reminded those present that the General Nursing Council for Scotland had established the "Prescribed Scheme" of Training, and hospitals preparing probationers for the State Examination had to conform to it, and were eager to do so.

The Scottish Council, however, owing to the reciprocity Rule between England and Scotland, would be compelled to place upon its Register women registered in England who had not been trained on a "Prescribed Scheme." Scottish nurses had here a grievance, and should support their English sisters in their just demand for uniform teaching in the two countries.

MISS E. J. HURLSTON, in seconding the Resolution, emphasised the point that it was the duty of the Matrons on the General Nursing Council to see that the law in

regard to the Syllabus was carried out. If the highest authorities in the Nursing World did not set an example of obedient service how could they expect it from their subordinates.

MISS BREAY, MISS I. MACDONALD and others took part in the discussion, each supporting the right to a "Prescribed" Syllabus of Training.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION II.

The second Resolution, moved by MISS MAUD MACCALLUM was as follows:—

"That the Election of Registered Nurses on to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales be on a free and democratic basis, and that no privileged positions be reserved for Matrons of Hospitals, or other classes of Nurses, registered on the General Part of the Register."

In proposing this Resolution, MISS MACCALLUM said nurses had learnt that if they wanted their interests protected on the General Nursing Council they must protect them themselves. She instanced, as illustrations of the way in which they were imperilled, or injured, by members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on the Council, and outside it, the determined attempt by Miss Cox-Davies to deprive them of the record of their certificates on the State Register, the admission of women without hospital training to that Register urged and secured by Miss Herbert, and by Miss Rundle, at the instance of the College of Nursing (in conjunction with Dr. Chapple), but it was not until they got rid of the fighters on the first General Nursing Council that they succeeded in getting the Register opened to untrained women.

MISS MACCALLUM reminded the meeting of the irresponsible manner in which the majority of the members of the first General Nursing Council went on strike in 1921 and 1922, and plotted in the background, and how eventually those members, with a new Chairman (Sir Wilmot Herringham) came back to office with the promise of the then Minister of Health (Sir Alfred Mond) that he would support them.

From these and other incidents, MISS MACCALLUM drew the moral that if the Registered Nurses wished for reforms in their profession, as organised through the present General Nursing Council, they must fight for them themselves from the outside.

MISS G. LE GEY, who seconded the Resolution, said that the right which it demanded was the right of self-government, one which the last century had established. Was the present one going to leave it behind?

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK pointed out that the question of the election of direct representatives on to the General Nursing Council was in the forefront at the present time. In March of last year the Minister of Health (Mr. Neville Chamberlain, M.P.), had, in accordance with his undertaking in the House of Commons given to Major Barnett, on March 14th, 1923, requested the General Nursing Council to consider the amendments proposed by Major Barnett to the Scheme for the Election of direct Representatives, and to submit to the Minister such alterations as they might be prepared to make within the next twelve months. That time had now almost elapsed.

The Resolution was carried unanimously.

It was further agreed, on the proposition of MISS MARY BURR, that the Resolutions should be sent to the new Minister of Health and others, and the meeting concluded with cordial votes of thanks to the Chairman and speakers.

NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

The National Conference of the Nurses' Association of China was held at Canton from January 31st to February 6th, and the programme published in English and Chinese

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