

Barnett's amendment were adopted, and it is extremely important that, so far as possible, every interest that is included in the Register should also be represented on the Council.

It is also desirable that the provision for the representation of education should be more distinctly affirmed. For that reason, it is recommended that of the eleven nurses to be elected to represent the nurses who are on the General Part, six shall be Matrons who, at the time of the election, either are, or within three years past, have been actively engaged in the education and training of nurses. And in addition, one place should be reserved for a Registered Nurse who is, at the time of the election, employed as a Sister-Tutor in an approved training school for General Nurses. If the Council adopt these views, fourteen of the sixteen elected places would be filled as follows:—

Matrons of Training		
Schools	6	} 9 for General Part of the Register.
Public Health and District Nursing .. .	1	
Private Nurses .. .	1	
Sister Tutor .. .	1	
Male Nurses .. .	1	
Mental Nurses (Male) .. .	1	} 2 for Mental Register.
(Female) .. .	1	
Sick Children's Nurses .. .	1	1 for Sick Children's Register.
Fever Nurses .. .	1	1 for Fever Register.

There would then be two instead of three places left open (among the representatives of the nurses on the General Part of the Register). Hitherto, Matrons of training schools have been excluded from these places. Major Barnett's amendment would admit them, and since sufficient provision has been made for the interests of education and of the main branches of nursing, there is no objection to leaving these two places open to any nurse on the General Part of the Register. But to Major Barnett's amendment as a whole, which throws the whole eleven places open, and makes no provision for the representation either of education or of particular interests, we have a strong objection.

Lastly, one of Major Barnett's amendments disqualifies a nurse who makes a mistake in any section of the voting paper from casting her vote at all.

On this we beg to observe that the different sections of the General voting paper are wholly distinct from one another, and the whole paper is very long. The constituency is not skilled in election, and indeed with such a voting paper, although it appears to be the only means of securing adequate representation of all interests, errors are almost certain to occur. It seems unnecessary, and if unnecessary, it would be a great hardship to prevent a nurse from voting at all because in one section she had made a mistake. It would, therefore, be undesirable to adopt this amendment.

Recommendation 7:—

"That a report in the foregoing terms be submitted to the Minister of Health in reply to his letter of March 19th, 1923."

Discussion on the Scheme.

The principal part of the discussion centred round the method of election for the 11 representatives of the nurses on the General Part of the Register.

MISS DU SAUTOY'S PROPOSAL.

MISS DU SAUTOY proposed, as an amendment to the proposition, to secure six seats to Matrons of Training Schools, that they should be filled by those doing actual training, whether Matrons, Home Sisters, Sister-Tutors, or Sisters, &c. She considered that eventually the election of the whole of the 11 representatives would have to be thrown open, but expressed a doubt as to whether the electorate was sufficiently organised for this now.

She pointed out further that the scheme adopted would not be acted upon for another four years, and, by that

time there might be no Poor-Law Infirmaries, though provision was made for the Election of Poor-Law Matrons.

She proposed:—

"That six places should be reserved for educationalists, namely, those actually engaged in teaching"—(rather than for Matrons)—"and that the other five places should be open without distinction."

MISS DU SAUTOY'S amendment was seconded by Miss BUSHBY, and supported by Miss VILLIERS.

MISS SPARSHOTT hoped that the Committee's proposal would not be altered, and contended that Matrons of hospitals do take an active part in the teaching of probationers.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP hoped that the Committee's proposals in reply to the Minister of Health, would be sent back to the Registration Committee for further consideration. She objected to the three years' limit in connection with the eligibility of the Matrons of Training Schools. She also wanted two seats definitely reserved for Matrons of Poor-Law Training Schools until these were abolished.

MISS COODE said that the Matron had in her hands all the threads of the training in the various departments.

MISS COWLIN thought that the services of good women would be lost if the restrictions proposed by the Registration Committee were imposed. She would like the proposals referred back, and thought the election of the 11 representatives should be without restriction.

DR. GOODALL asserted that the recommendations were in very general terms. It would be four years before there was an election. The Committee wanted the Council to send up to the Minister a General Report as to what was in the minds of the Council. They had three or four years in which to consider the subject. When the Minister had considered the Report, then was the time for definite minute details. He hoped the amendment would not be pressed.

The Committee gave serious attention to the question at more than one meeting. If they used the word educationalist, they might lose the opportunity of getting on to the Council just the women they wanted. If they confined the candidates to Sister Tutors—[this was not the proposition—ED.]—how could these junior members of the profession give up so much time to the work of the Council? Unless such a nurse lived in London, it would be quite impossible for her to be Chairman of the Council.

The Report was bound to come back to them, and to be considered within the next four years.

SIR JENNER VERRALL, who said he wished to support the views of the majority of the Nurses on the Council, hoped the amendment would not be pressed. He hoped the Report would go back. There was plenty of time.

He hoped that the chair of the Council would eventually be occupied by a Matron. There were some things in a Matron's life which counted. Those who had much experience of public business knew how very very difficult it was to get the exact forms of words which meant what they were intended to say. The scheme must be constructed exceedingly carefully. Was it understood that the Council would have to abide by what they sent up now?

THE CHAIRMAN said the present proposals were an answer to Minister's letter, not a scheme.

MISS MUSSON said it was in the mind of the Committee that the Matrons of the Training Schools were the head mistresses of these schools. Many people were teaching in the training schools, but, while that fact was not lost sight of, it was the Matron who had to go to the Committee and get the arrangements made. She had to arrange the nurses' work in the hospital, and was emphatically the head teacher. Further, the Council was entirely dependent

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