

gone. 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 deprived of their right to "prescribed" training, and the Nursing Schools exempted from conforming to the Act and providing it.

On December 15th, 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 Educational 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 *ultra vires*.

On June 15th, 1923, a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Council from the Ministry of Health, was read, which stated:—"The Minister has under consideration your letter of the 19th March, forwarding the syllabus of Training and Examination for the Supplementary Parts of the Register. The Minister notes that it is stated in the Preface that the Syllabus of Training is issued 'in the hope that it may aid the training schools in arriving at a general standard of nursing education,' and it appears to him that there has been some mistake as to the division of responsibility between the Council and himself in this matter. Broadly speaking, the legal position is that anything which the Council proposes to make absolutely binding on all persons concerned must be made the subject of a Rule, and as such, must receive his sanction before it can be operative.

"But he is advised that the provisions of Section 3 (2) (a) with regard to 'prescribed Training' will be fully complied with if the Examination Syllabus is made compulsory by scheduling it to the rules, and if a rule is added requiring that candidates presenting themselves for examination shall satisfy the Council that they have undergone systematic instruction in the subjects set out in the Examination Syllabus. The Minister would suggest to the Council that it is more consonant with the dignity of a Statutory Body to reply, so far as the provisions of the Act allow, on their own authority, in preference to invoking his sanction in matters in which there is no statutory necessity to do so. In the Minister's opinion it is better that the Council should take the responsibility of issuing on their own authority such instructions or recommendations as

to the course of training as they may from time to time consider it desirable to issue for the guidance of the Nurse Training Schools. For these reasons the Minister is not at present prepared to issue a compulsory Syllabus of Training, and he would, therefore, advise the Council to revise their proposals in the light of the considerations already set out, and submit for his sanction, and for inclusion in the Rules, a Syllabus indicating the subjects in which candidates are to be examined."

On September 21st, 1923, Miss A. M. Bushby, Direct Representative of Sick Children's Nurses on the Council, protested against the compulsory syllabus of Examination being substituted for the Syllabus of Training, and said a compulsory Syllabus of Training had been denied to the nurses which was theirs by right as stated in the Act.

The Chairman, Sir Wilmot Herringham, said: "that, as everyone was well aware, these arguments had been put before the Ministry over and over again. The Council had had to yield to *force majeure*."

On January 18th, 1924, the Chairman of Council moved for leave to bring up a bunch of Rules, which was laid on the table, as a matter of urgency. He thought they should go to the Minister. It could be done by leave of the Council. Mr. Donaldson objected as the Council had had no opportunity of considering them. The Chairman agreed.

On April 11th, 1924, the Education Committee reported to the Council extracts from a letter from the Ministry of Health, forwarded by the Council's solicitor, referring to new Rules, in which the following statement appears:—

"There is one further point which has occurred to us, in looking over the draft Rules as they now stand. We are a little doubtful whether 'training' is sufficiently defined in these Rules to satisfy the requirements of Section 3 (2) (a) of the Act, which refers to 'prescribed training,' and has given rise to some controversy. Mr. Maude suggests that at the end of Rule 5 a short definition clause should be added in the following terms:—

"For the purpose of this Rule 'training in a Training School' means training given at the school in the subjects prescribed by the Council as subjects for the examination which the applicant is required to pass."

This evasive suggestion was agreed to by the Council, and incorporated in the new Rules.

In the new Rules framed by the General Nursing Council, procurable this month, July, 1925, with regard to admission to the Register by Examination 4 (1) and (2) (a) (b) and (c) certificates are required by the Council to prove that the person to be examined has undergone the training specified in Clause 6 of this part of the Rules, and has undergone systematic instruction in each of the subjects for Examination contained in the Schedule to this part of the Rules.

III.

THE PRESCRIBED SCHEME FOR THE ELECTION OF REGISTERED NURSES, BY THE NURSES REGISTERED ON THE GENERAL PART OF THE REGISTER, AS THEIR DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

2.—The Reservation of Seats for Matrons.

Under the Scheme made under paragraph 4 of the Schedule to the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, for the election of sixteen persons, who must be registered nurses, to be members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, nurses on the General Part of the Register are entitled to vote for eleven representatives, but under the Scheme tentatively in force, and under that proposed by the General Nursing Council, their free choice is greatly restricted. Six seats are secured to Matrons of General Hospitals or Poor Law Infirmaries, the remaining five seats

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