

Examiners. Is that not one of the very important parts of their duties?—Yes, I should say it was a very important part.

264. Would that not mean that it would be advisable to have a very considerable proportion of matrons at any rate who would be able to nominate and to recommend examiners?—I do not think so. There are medical and nursing examiners.

265. Yes, I know; of course, there are medical representatives on the Council?—Yes.

266. But from the nursing point of view is it not essential that there should be a very considerable proportion of matrons who should be able to nominate examiners for the different types of nurses?—I do not think it is obligatory at all. For instance, the Council has deputed the right of the nomination of examiners for the mental nurses to an unincorporated body, the Medico-Psychological Association. I do not think they have any right to have done it, but they have done it.

267. Is not that also an argument that they should have people on it themselves?—They could have nominated members of the Medico-Psychological Association.

MAJOR SIR RICHARD BARNETT.

268. Mrs. Fenwick, on the scheme of election, suppose the scheme should be finally confirmed there are only two registered nurses without other qualifications who are to be elected—that is so, is it not?—There are only two unclassified.

269. Then there is the point Miss Wilkinson raised. I want to be quite clear—there is one registered male nurse?—There are two registered mental nurses, and there is one registered sick children's nurse, and one registered fever nurse, but the whole body of trained nurses is a very much larger body, I take it, than all these supplemental people put together?—Yes, it is larger; the mental nurses will be a large part of the Register.

270. Your case is that it is unfair to the registered nurses and undemocratic that they should be so limited in their choice as they are by this scheme?—Yes. I cannot see why the specialist nurses are to have an absolutely free election and the more highly qualified women, the general nurses, are not to have a free choice.

271. Just one question on the prescribed training: Your submission I take it, to the Committee is that to give a number of subjects to the probationer and say "We are going to hold an examination in those subjects," is not a prescribed scheme of training in compliance with the Act?—No, I do not think it is: but, of course, I am not a Law Officer of the Crown. When we get the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown then we shall know.

272. You have not got that yet?—No.

COLONEL FREMANTLE.

273. Mrs. Fenwick, on page 3 of your precis you say that it is the clear intention of Parliament to have "a definite and compulsory uniformity," do you state that as your reading of the Act, or as your reading of the discussions which led to the Act?—It is the Act.

274. It is your reading of the Act?—Yes, it is my reading of the Act for what it is worth; and I am bound to say that there was a very large amount of support for a uniform curriculum on the Council.

275. Then another question I wanted to ask again was on your point on the next page, that it is imperative that a nurse's education should be definite, compulsory and uniform. I suppose you would agree that it is perfectly impossible to get uniformity in anything like detail where you have the training of nurses under such different conditions in different hospitals. If you have a syllabus it obviously cannot go into detail, can it?—Not altogether, but I think there ought to be a minimum syllabus of details.

276. Therefore your statement requires some qualification, because I suppose you would agree that the education depends very largely upon the personality which interprets the training?—Yes, and that is a danger. These rules and laws have to be made for the average person; that is all we ask for.

277. On the other point there is one question which I want to raise, the last page but one of your evidence, page 3, with regard to the prescribed schemes. The Council at its meeting on July 25th, 1924, "no less than four different notices of motion in reference to it were placed on the agenda," and you say "This diversity of opinion in the Council itself, after 15 months' special consideration of the question, is evidence of the limited support in allotting seats," but do you say that that evidence is merely on the fact that there were four different notices of motion or is it on the voting accorded to those four different notices of motion?—The four different notices of motion were all antagonistic to the scheme of allotting seats.

278. You do not say whether there were any other notices of motion in favour of the scheme as eventually adopted?—I do not think there were. The scheme as eventually adopted, the amendments, of course, were against it. Might I just ask you what page it is on?

279. It is on page 3 at the bottom, the last paragraph but one of your precis.—It is the reservation.

280. It is the last line but four on page 3. It begins, "This diversity of opinion in the Council itself, after 15 months." I want to be quite clear as to what the diversity of opinion was. So far you have only mentioned four notices of motion against the points that were eventually decided upon?—They were all proposals to have a free choice of candidates.

281. But what was the backing that they had?—That I could not tell you, because I was not there. I do not think that the names of those voting were called for, I used to call for names, but I do not think people do now.

SIR CHARLES FORESTIER-WALKER.

282. This was the elected Council?—Yes, the second Council. It was after the 15 months when the scheme had to be submitted to the Minister for his consideration, and there was great diversity of opinion with regard to the principle of an open election. Of course, those supporting it were in the minority and were outvoted.

SIR GEORGE BERRY.

283. There are one or two points I should like to ask Mrs. Fenwick. I am not sure whether you, Sir, consider them strictly relevant, but as we have so great an expert in nursing there are one or two points that I should like to know Mrs. Fenwick's views upon. Do you think it is very important for a nurse to have an exhaustive training in medicine and surgery as apart from her vocational strictly nursing work. Do you attach a great deal of importance to that?—I attach a great deal of importance to a nurse being taught the underlying principles of medical and surgical nursing, so that she may be able to apply the directions which she is given by the surgeon and physician.

284. The reason why I ask that is that I should like to know whether any discrimination is made in the case of an examination of a nurse between the strictly practical, purely nursing subjects and the more scientific, more professional, medical and surgical subjects?—I think that the present syllabus (what they call the little Yellow Book) provides for that. It refers to theory and practice.

285. Then as regards the failures, do you make any difference between the failure of a nurse in her nursing work, and the failure of a nurse to answer questions in professional subjects on medicine and surgery?—According to the curriculum that they have to examine upon, a nurse has to pass in all the departments and sections, and of

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