

311. The syllabus of 1925.—No, I said I was fairly satisfied with the syllabus, and so I am. I want the syllabus of training signed as a rule so that it can be really enforced; it cannot be enforced now.

312. Then the other observation was in regard to training being inefficient in some of the largest hospitals. To what is that due?—Yesterday, I think, the Committee was rather led to believe that it was all the smaller hospitals that sent up the failures at the examinations. I think if you have before you the result of the examinations, they have just taken place, and they have not yet been published, the first final, you will then be able to judge for yourselves from where they come, and I think you will find that some of the largest hospitals have sent up probationers who have not passed.

313. The other question is, is Mrs Fenwick satisfied with the method by which hospitals are approved as teaching centres?—Not entirely. I think they ought to be much more inspected than they are. A great deal of the approval is done on paper.

314. Inspected by whom?—Members of the Council. I do not think that the hospitals would object to it.

315. But do not you think that there ought to be some differentiation in regard to general training; that is to say, those who desire not to undertake the general training ought to be divided into two sections—surgical and medical?—I strongly disapprove of that. Nursing must follow along the lines of medical and surgical science, the evolution of medicine is ever uprising, and the nurses cannot really be efficient helpers either to physicians or to surgeons unless they are instructed.

316. But you have categories for other five or six types of nurses; the general nurse has to take both, but the others do not?—But medicine and surgery are both general. I should like to include midwifery, but that is another question. But, on that point, what we are being led to in the future (not at the present time quite) but in future, the majority of these specialists should disappear. I should hope that these specialist registers will all be incorporated in the General Register, except the mental nurses' part of the register.

SIR CHARLES FORESTIER-WALKER.

317. I do not think you really wanted to make the suggestion you did make when you referred to the election. Your objection was that the nurses at the first election did not understand much about it, which I can quite believe, and you say that they went to the Matrons for advice. You did not suggest for a moment that the Matrons were likely to intimidate the elector, did you?—I did not say they were likely to intimidate them; but I do think it is undesirable to have official advice upon the election.

318. You would not be surprised to hear that people do consult each other outside in other elections as to who possibly may be the best candidate?—I do not know. I thought it was all done on a Party basis.

319. It does not always follow it is done on a Party basis. I only wanted to make it clear that you did not mean there was any intimidation?—I did not mean in any large degree there was any coercion; but I am quite sure in certain cases there was official pressure.

320. I am sorry you should have given that answer.—I have given that answer.

321. Now, the only other question I want to ask is: You say that compulsory training would encourage recruitment. Can you tell us why and in what way it would encourage recruitment?—Because hospitals and infirmaries are very much recruited through the personality of their staff. If a woman is satisfied with the conditions of a hospital, she recommends somebody else to go there; and if she finds that the circumstances and conditions under which she works are satisfactory, she will be much more

likely to speak well of the nursing profession than if she finds them unsatisfactory.

322. I am afraid that does not quite answer my question. I can quite understand that if a hospital is better run than another hospital, it will encourage recruitment. I was referring to your remark?—If I went into a hospital where there was a compulsory curriculum and I knew exactly what I had got to learn, it would give me a great deal less trouble than if I did not know, and with the chance and risk of being examined upon things I had not been taught.

MR. RHYS DAVIES.

323. Who nominated the first Council, Mrs. Fenwick?—The Minister of Health, Dr. Addison.

324. How many nurses were entitled to take part in the election when it came—approximately?—I am not quite certain how many were registered at that time; I could not tell you exactly; but it is quite easy to ascertain that from the General Nursing Council.

325. Have you any idea what proportion of those entitled to do so voted?—A fair proportion; but that can all be obtained from the General Nursing Council.

326. Your complaint is against putting these elections on the basis of compartments. You desire a universal franchise and a general election, I take it?—That is so.

327. If you had that, would you be willing to have an election on a territorial basis so that all the members of the Council would not be in London, or provincial?—No, I should not. I should leave it to the good sense of the nurses when the nominations came up.

328. You would not favour a territorial basis?—No.

329. With regard to the standard of education, I asked a question yesterday, and I would like to repeat it. You would have a general standard, I take it, compulsory, and the examination would be uniform; it does not matter from what hospital the nurse comes. Is that your idea?—That is my point, yes.

330. Do you think that nurses in the smaller hospitals would be under a disadvantage in that case?—No; not if they had got the prescribed scheme of training before them and they had been trained upon it.

331. I thought you made a strong point to the effect that you emphasized the practical side as against the theoretical side?—I did not, as against the theoretical side. I wish the theory to be the basis of the practical work, and to have a combination.

332. And you would not allow any woman, I suppose, to sit for the examination unless she came through the hospital?—No; I do not see how she could.

333. That would be unlike other spheres of life, I suppose?—Yes; I think you must have the practical hospital experience if you are going to be a safe nurse of the sick.

334. Would you agree with this statement: That there are many girls who would enter the nursing profession if they were allowed to enter, say, at 18 or 19 years of age?—I do not know; perhaps so; I cannot say. I am not a matron now, but I do think some very good material gets diverted because so many young women have to earn their livings and they cannot wait an indefinite period; but, as I told you, the age has been decreased very much within the last ten years.

335. Do not you think it is a very strong point that if a girl is to enter any occupation at all she must do so at 15 or 16 years of age, and consequently, if you rule out girls until they are 18 or 19, you are ruling out automatically many girls from the nursing profession?—Yes; but I do not think that the young women (children almost) of 15 and 16 have the experience that is necessary for attendance on the sick.

Chairman: It is a little outside our terms of reference, Mr. Davies. It is a very interesting question, but a little outside our terms of reference.

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