

nurse a case of hæmorrhage who had never seen a case of hæmorrhage in her life."

Miss MacCallum also very strongly supported the demand for a free and democratic election of Nurse-Members to the General Nursing Council, as representative of the Nurses on the General Part of the Register, and further emphasised the fact that when a nurse enters hospital, from the time she enters, and during practically the whole of her life, she is entirely dependent on the good will of her Matron, and cannot get a post without her recommendation.

MISS DU SAUTOY, S.R.N., called in and examined.

Miss C. C. du Sautoy who stated that she was a member of the General Nursing Council, and was speaking for herself, but was on the minority side, stated in regard to a compulsory Syllabus of Training, that it appeared to her that they could only go by the Act. The word "prescribed" meant "laid down by a responsible authority."

In regard to the Scheme of Election she said, "What I feel about it, if I may amplify it a little, is this. To get on the Nurses' Register we are all put through one qualification. We are equals on the Register. I think we should vote on the same principle, as being equals, and not vote for the positions which we may hold. Undoubtedly, the positions of people standing for election must tell, because the people in the more administrative posts must be known by a greater number of nurses."

Thursday, August 6th.

On August 6th the Select Committee took evidence from Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N., Councillor Beatrice Kent, S.R.N., and Miss Helen Pearce, S.R.N., who had just returned from the Congress of Nurses at Helsingfors. All supported a compulsory Syllabus of Training and an unrestricted Scheme of Election. In connection with the latter Miss Pearce put in what was termed by the Chairman, "a very useful illustration." "When I wanted to apply for election, I found, as a public health nurse, which I had been for the previous 18 years, I was unable to stand, because I had in the past been a matron, so it blocked me altogether from applying. That is a point of illustration as to the difficulty you come to when you proceed to make out a Council in blocks."

The Committee then deliberated on the Report.

Comments.

The lessons to be learnt from the findings of the Select Committee are: (1) The power of persistence in a right cause. The General Nursing Council has been compelled by the force of the arguments of the Nurses' Organisations submitted to the Select Committee, to draw up, and submit to the Minister of Health for his approval, a Scheme of Election for the 11 representatives of the Nurses on the General Part of the Register, which it had determinedly opposed.

(2) Nurses have a right to a prescribed Scheme of Training under the Nurses' Registration Acts. Now that they have an unrestricted power of election of their representatives on their Governing Body, they will not be worth their salt if, at the next election, they do not see to it that the candidates they return are pledged to support a compulsory Scheme of Prescribed Training. That is to say that they insist, for the protection of Nurses in training, that the Syllabus of Training shall be prescribed by Rule, and that it shall be a condition of recognition of hospitals as Nurse Training Schools that they undertake to teach according to the Syllabus of Training prescribed by the Council.

Throughout the evidence before the Select Committee it was apparent that it was consideration for the interests of the hospital authorities, not of the nurses in training, which was the dominant factor causing the withholding of a compulsory Syllabus of Training.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Sixty-third Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on November 20th at 20, Portland Place, London, W.1, SIR WILMOT P. HERRINGHAM, K.C.M.G. (Chairman of the Council), presiding.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last Meeting which had been circulated were signed as correct.

Correspondence.

THE CHAIRMAN read the following Resolutions which had been forwarded to the Council by the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council.

RESOLUTION I.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council enters the strongest possible protest against the policy of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in persistently ignoring the considered opinion of organised Nurses concerning their profession.

- (1) By attempting to thrust upon Registered Nurses an unrepresentative governing body, based upon privilege.
- (2) In evading the provision of the Nurses' Registration Act that the scheme of training shall be prescribed by rule, in order to protect the rights of Probationers in training, who are compelled to pay for compulsory examination before enjoying the legal privilege of State registration.

Moreover, the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council protests against the unnecessary expenditure of public money on the establishment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons before justice could be effected, which, with a more enlightened policy upon the part of the General Nursing Council, need not have been incurred.

RESOLUTION II.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council objects to the abolition of the registration fee by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

In the opinion of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council the financial stability of the compilation and production of the State Register of Nurses should not be financially dependent on the examination or other fees not directly paid, as provided by the Nurses' Registration Act, for the purpose of registration.

RESOLUTION III.

The R.N.P.C. also takes strong exception to the form of the new certificate of registration, which is practically an annual licenceto practise, a form of registration which was considered and rejected when the Nurses' Registration Bill was before Parliament.

THE CHAIRMAN then said he had been asked to make a few remarks on these resolutions. The Council were accused of persistently ignoring the considered opinion of Organised Nurses concerning their profession. The opinion of organised nurses so far as he was aware had not been presented to the Council.

They were further accused:—

- (1) Of attempting to thrust upon Registered Nurses an unrepresentative Governing Body based on privilege. He presumed that this was because they desired that six members of the Council should be Matrons, so that expert advice as to Nursing Education might be secured. They had adopted the scheme originally proposed by the

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