

in to the Chairman in writing, and are divided roughly into five classes:—

- (1) Omitting words.
- (2) Inserting or adding words.
- (3) Both omitting and inserting words.
- (4) Substituting an amended version of the resolution.

Sometimes an almost endless process—especially if there is much diversity of opinion on the motion, as an amendment can also be amended.

A substantive resolution is that put to the meeting after discussion is closed, incorporating all amendments.

The last form of resolution to be considered is termed a Rider. A Rider is an addition which adds relative fact or theory to the Resolution. It does not amend. If carried, it is added to the original Resolution as passed.

6. *Other Business.*—Under this heading "Other Business" may be considered at the end of a Meeting, but great care should be exercised that no contentious business is considered under this heading—as otherwise matters may be dealt with without the consideration or knowledge of members absent—who may thus be made responsible for a policy with which they disagree. Such methods are inexcusable, and are justly stigmatised as "tricky business." No straightforward and impartial chairman will permit such methods, and no responsible member of a Committee should omit to protest against them.

*The Previous Question.*—To move the Previous Question implies a direct negative to a motion, and when moved, the Chairman announces usually that "The question now is 'that the original question be not put.'" If this is carried, the Motion to which it refers cannot be put to the meeting, and is consequently dead. It cannot itself be amended.

*Quorum.*—A quorum signifies a specified number of members considered sufficient to transact business, and should be agreed upon the inception of a Committee—five to nine were usual numbers.

*The Vote.*—There are various methods of voting:—

- (1) Vocally, saying either "Aye" or "No."
- (2) By show of hands, or standing.
- (3) By a division, or poll.
- (4) By ballot.

The Chairman announces the result. A vote is an articulate effective declaration of the opinion of the voter, and should be honourably recorded. Unfortunately, various influences may be brought to bear on a voter, and we may take it that it is not always possible to eliminate the influence of self-interest in this connection. But a Vote is both a privilege and a trust, and should be most honourably exercised. To "vote straight" should be the policy of every woman in her professional, social, and political relations.

Mrs. Fenwick then announced that Lesson II would be a practical lesson, and, on the recommendation of Miss Bushby, those present were invited to write the Minutes of the Meeting, and send them to the Secretary.

Those present expressed warm appreciation of such a lesson in the conduct of business, and offered a hearty vote of thanks to the Lecturer.

### THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF NURSES.

We regret that we are unable to award the prize offered last month for the best article on the question, "How would available Funds of the British College of Nurses be best spent on the higher education of nurses," no paper of sufficient merit having been received, though that by Miss Amy Phipps may be commended. We hope that Fellows and Members of the College will consider this important question.

### THE HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD.

The Nineteenth Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer (Sir George Newman) of the Board of Education for the year 1926\* to the President of the Board on the School Medical Service is an exceedingly important and interesting document, for the body of the Report, as its author tells us, comprises his general observations upon some of the more important current aspects of the Medical Service of the Local Education Authorities, a service which is year by year winning an ever larger degree of the public interest and confidence. He adds that "quite recently, one of our most representative newspapers stated in its editorial pages that 'since the war the nation as a whole has come to feel that the health of children is one of the most important facts in social and national life, since the children are the *potential capital of the nation*, the capital into which all other material capital will be merged.'"

Sir George Newman emphasises the fact that in this generation it has been given to Education Authorities, in a remarkable degree, to apply the doctrine of Preventive Medicine to the nation's children, and that his Report is a review of their labours in this behalf.

The purpose of the Local Education Authorities in the administration of the Education Acts is to *prepare the child for education and for citizenship*. Merely to provide for the medical inspection of children or even the treatment of those found to be suffering from one or more physical defects would be to overlook the fact that the School Medical Service is fundamentally physiological in conception and preventive in purpose, one of the most far-reaching social reforms. In the interest of convenience and brevity it may be said that the School Medical Service is designed:

(1) To fit the child to receive the education provided for it by the State. But this must also mean to adapt educational methods to the natural physiological capacity and powers of the child. This involves a study and understanding of the sphere and compass of a child's physiology.

(2) To detect any departures from the normal physiological health and growth, any impairments, aberrations, defects, or disease (physical or mental), and advise the remedy or amelioration of them (at the school or otherwise) lest worse befall.

(3) To seek the causes and conditions (external and internal to the body of the child) of such defect and disease, and, as far as may be, *prevent* them.

(4) To teach and practise personal hygiene in every school, so that a habit of hygiene may be contracted by the children, and the way of physiological life may be followed by each coming generation.

The whole design is an opening of the gates of physical opportunity. Medical inspection is merely an arrangement to explore and unveil the condition of each child in order that the rest of the programme may be fulfilled with a correct regard to the facts of the case.

#### Staff of the School Medical Service.

The Staff of the School Medical Service consists of (a) *School Medical Officers*, of whom 263 give their whole time to the School Medical Service, 574 are whole-time officers for public health and school work, and the remaining 386 part-time officers.

(b) *Specialist Medical Officers.*—865 specialists are employed on ophthalmic, aural, anæsthetic, X-ray and orthopædic work, of whom only 14 are employed whole-time for public health or school medical work. Here, and in primary medical treatment, the private practitioner is rendering valued service to the schools.

(c) *School Dentists*, numbering 591, of whom 263 are

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