

restoration to the Register would be considered under a period of two years from the date of removal from the Register.

Particulars of cases concerning two Registered Nurses were taken *in camera*.

DIVISION OF THE PRELIMINARY STATE EXAMINATION INTO TWO PARTS.

It was proposed by Miss R. A. Cox-Davies, seconded by Miss L. G. Duff Grant, that the following business be taken *in camera*. As there were more votes against the proposition than for it, it was lost, and the Press admitted to the discussion:

Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., proposed the following Resolution for consideration by the Council.

"That the Council approve of the Division of the Preliminary State Examination into two parts; Part I of the Examination which may be taken before entry to a training school, shall include the subjects of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene.

"A candidate taking Part I of the Examination before entrance to a training school will be required to produce evidence that she has undergone a course of instruction approved by the General Nursing Council, which shall include the above subjects.

"The minimum age of entry to Part I of the Examination shall be 18 years.

"That the Education and Examination Committee be requested to submit draft Regulations for giving effect to this resolution."

Miss Dey opened the discussion on the Resolution by explaining that it would be a means of filling the gap between the school-leaving age, and entrance for training in hospital; she considered the Nursing Profession would not lose so many candidates, and it would mean that a nurse would need to attend fewer lectures during her first year in hospital, and need less coaching. There would be more time for rest and recreation. She thought it would encourage parents to keep their girls at school; they could take up other cultural subjects as well as Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene; and the Examination would be conducted by the General Nursing Council, and draft Regulations drawn up by the Education and Examination Committee.

Dr. A. Geoffrey Evans seconded the Resolution for two reasons—it would be a means of filling the gap between school-leaving age and entrance to hospital, and afford more opportunity for rest and recreation, the first year in hospital being extremely hard for the young nurse.

Sir Frederick Menzies remarked that the course of instruction must be approved by the General Nursing Council, to which Miss Cox-Davies agreed although she did not agree to the Division of the Preliminary State Examination.

Miss K. M. Willis asked how it would affect the girl taking a high school education; it would have to be an extra course.

The Chairman considered the Division of the Preliminary Examination would mean the divorce of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene from the practical training of the nurse, and did not consider that the girls should take part of the Preliminary State Examination before entering the hospital for training. There might also be the danger of other bodies wishing to deprive the General Nursing Council of the right of examination; she was not in favour of accepting any other form of Examination.

The Chairman also pointed out that the results from the Division of the Preliminary Examination in Scotland had not been encouraging.

Miss Dey assured the Chairman that there would be no question of any other body than the General Nursing Council conducting Part I of the Preliminary Examination.

Miss Duff Grant considered it would be useful for girls to have some knowledge of applied nursing before entering

hospital, but did not wish the nursing profession to fall into the error of divorcing theory and practice of nursing. As a Sister Tutor for several years, she considered the Schools could best help by giving the girls a sound education, including chemistry, biology, science and the arts; she had found their writing and spelling poor, and arithmetic deplorable; she considered the teaching of anatomy, physiology and hygiene best left in the hands of the hospitals.

Mrs. Edwards supported the Resolution concerning the Division of the Preliminary State Examination, and thought the question of divorce between theory and practice of nursing was exaggerated.

Lady Limerick supported the Resolution, and considered taking Part I of the Examination before entering hospital would eliminate some strain on the probationers during their first year in hospital.

Dr. Collins in supporting the Resolution thought it would be helpful for girls to know something of those subjects before entering hospital.

Miss Gwatkin supported the Resolution, and considered by taking those subjects before entering hospital would greatly lessen the strain on the probationers' first year, over which she found parents most anxious. She considered these subjects might be included in a course of two years, pupils from 16 to 18 years of age, during which period there would also be ample time for cultural subjects. She thought Local Educational Authorities might also award Scholarships for both day and evening courses. She considered this would be a means of obtaining a very valuable draft of young women for the Nursing Profession, who otherwise would be lost altogether.

She considered it too early to judge the results from Scotland, where the schools were mostly mixed, there being very few girls' schools.

Miss E. C. Pearce rose and spoke in favour of the Division of the Preliminary State Examination, saying she represented the Sister Tutors. The Chairman reminded her that she did not represent any special branch.

Miss Pearce went on to say that 70 per cent. of the Sister Tutor Section of the College of Nursing were in favour of the division. They found that girls were anxious to learn something before they entered for training, and hated the grind of the first year. She would like to see girls come into the hospital with previous knowledge, she thought they would be better equipped for their training.

Miss M. Smith also stated that she was heartily in favour of the Resolution.

The Resolution was put to the meeting; 15 members of Council voted in favour, and 8 voted against.

The voting was as follows:—

FOR THE RESOLUTION.

Appointed by the Privy Council.

The Countess of Limerick.

Sir Henry C. Gooch, B.A., LL.B., J.P.

Appointed by the Board of Education.

Miss E. R. Gwatkin, M.A., Headmistress, Streatham Hill High School.

Mrs. M. E. Edwards, Chairman, Chiswick Polytechnic.

Appointed by the Ministry of Health.

M. A. Collins, Esq., O.B.E., M.D., Medical Superintendent, Kent County Mental Hospital, Chartham Down.

A. Geoffrey Evans, Esq., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

Mrs. M. H. Kettle, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Editor *The Lancet*.

Sir Frederick Menzies, K.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health, London County Council.

Miss Z. L. Puxley, O.B.E., Principal on the Ministry of Health.

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