

of all the Hospitals in the kingdom engaged in the work of training Nurses or Midwives, explaining shortly the importance of the subject, and stating that a new body was about to be formed to undertake the work of Registration, altogether distinct from the Association, but upon which the Association will be strongly represented by means of the members of its Executive Committee, offering each Hospital the right to send one of its Medical or Nursing Staff to represent its views upon the proposed Council. As was expected, those Hospitals which have been throughout opposed to Registration declined to take any part in forwarding the scheme; others expressed their ignorance of the matter, and their consequent inability to take any action; others promised to give the subject further consideration, and the great majority made no official reply of any kind to the circular. Unofficially it has been stated that some Hospitals are waiting to see the scheme in working order before they give their assistance to it; and others desire to know how the travelling and other expenses of their representatives are to be met if such are appointed. Finally, six Hospitals—the York County Hospital, the Lincoln County Hospital, the Birkenhead Borough Hospital, the Halifax Infirmary, the Adelaide Hospital of Dublin, and the British Lying-in Hospital of London—appointed representatives (three Medical men and three Matrons). On December 6th a meeting of the new Council was held, duly constituted itself, passed certain necessary bye-laws and some preliminary regulations for Registration, and appointed a representative Registration Board to carry out the scheme.

The Executive Committee also proposed the following resolutions:—

“That all Nursing candidates for Membership of the Association must have had three years’ professional work, of which at least twelve months must have been passed in a Hospital.”

“That the question of fresh Regulations for the admission of Midwives and Monthly Nurses be postponed to the next meeting of the Council.”

Miss Wood thought it would be as well to read the Rule as it stood before, in order that the difference might be noted: “Bye-law III.—The Association shall be composed of Nurses and Midwives of not less than three years’ standing.” Miss Wood then said that this was the first step of the Association to tighten the net, as it were, and to make it more difficult to become a Member. It was rightly thought at the formation of the Association that there were many Nurses who had had no Hospital training, and yet were really good Nurses, and that it would not be right to keep

them out; but these had now had two years in which to make up their minds, and it could therefore be no hardship if Hospital training was now insisted upon.

Mrs. Price asked if the training would have to be in certain Hospitals or in any Hospital.

Miss Wood said that each case was dealt with by the Sub-Committee on its own merits; but should an applicant have been trained, say, at a Hospital for skin disease, it would be in the power of the Committee to reject her.

Dr. Sturges said he thought there would be no difficulty in specifying the Hospitals that Nurses should be trained at, in order to qualify as members, and if any respectable Hospital was overlooked, it could make application to be put on the list.

The Chairman asked if Dr. Sturges would move an amendment.

After some discussion, Dr. Sturges moved as an amendment that the Rule should read, “At least twelve months must have been passed in a Hospital, Infirmary, or certain special Hospitals, to be hereafter named.” Mrs. Price seconded this.

This was followed by further discussion, in which Dr. Fenwick explained that it would be most difficult to find out which Hospitals trained Nurses or not, as in the case of some Hospitals no reply had been received to the circular asking for information on that point, and the Chairman said he thought the original resolution was the better.

Dr. Sturges said that, with the permission of the seconder, he would withdraw the amendment.

Dr. Griffiths then proposed, and Mrs. Robinson seconded, that the words “preferably in a General Hospital” should be added to the original resolution, and the rule read, “That all candidates for Membership of the Association must have had three years’ professional work, of which at least twelve months must have been passed in a Hospital, preferably a General Hospital.”

This resolution, together with the amendment, was then put to the meeting, and carried.

The second part of this resolution, concerning the rules for the admission of Midwives, was now brought forward, and Miss Wood pointed out that a Nurse, who was not otherwise qualified for Membership, might by serving six weeks or three months in a Lying-in Hospital obtain a Certificate, and, by producing it, become a Member of the Association. It was therefore felt that more time was required for the consideration of regulations for the admission of Midwives, the rule of proof of three years’ professional work to be enforced.

The second part of the third resolution was then put to the meeting and carried.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting closed.

*previous page*

*next page*