

to withdraw the proposal that Scottish Fever Nurses should be admitted to the general part of the Register. He was entirely in sympathy with the desire expressed by the deputation for uniformity of standard throughout the United Kingdom, and he thought that agreement was now in sight. As far as he was aware the points still outstanding were of relatively minor importance, and he anticipated no difficulty in their adjustment. But as the English Council had not yet received the draft Scottish Rules in their latest form he could not say definitely that all the difficulties had been removed. Sir Alfred Mond added that he had that morning received from the English Nursing Council a print of the Rules submitted for his approval, and he was prepared to sign them at once, subject to the reciprocity rule being deferred for the present. If the English Council accepted this suggestion, as he hoped they would, the Register could be opened at once. He was extremely anxious that the Act should be put into operation without further delay, and he undertook to use his influence to secure that uniformity of standard which he believed Parliament had contemplated when Section 6 of the Act was passed.

Mr. Paterson thanked the Minister for receiving the deputation, which then withdrew.

A member of the deputation writes:—I came away, and I am sure others did the same, very pleased with the grip the Minister appeared to have of the situation, with confidence in his wise statesmanship in conducting negotiations with the Scottish Office, and in his genuine desire to bring to a conclusion the present anomalous position. It was good to hear Sir Alfred Mond say that he was prepared to sign the Rules at once provided that the English Nursing Council agreed to the reciprocity clause being postponed for further discussion.

In regard to any conditions being attached to the withdrawal of the proposal that Scottish Fever Nurses should be admitted to the General Part of the Register, the Minister pointed out that the English Nursing Council was a Statutory Body, and he had no power to agree to conditions. This recognition of the status of the Council was as correct as it was tactful.

The Minister courteously remarked when Mr. Paterson thanked him for receiving the deputation that he was very pleased to meet so many distinguished members of the nursing profession.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A Emergency Meeting of the Council will be held at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W., on Thursday in this week, July 14th, to consider a communication from Sir Alfred Mond, Minister of Health, on the Rules, to receive Reports, and also a Deputation from the Conference of Representatives of Poor-Law Nurse Training Schools.

If all goes well we hope to announce in our next issue that the Rules submitted by the Council have been approved and signed by the Minister, and that at last State Registration is in force.

We feel sure the nursing profession at large realises the arduous and responsible nature of the task entrusted by Parliament to the General Nursing Council, of drafting the Constitution for the conduct of its business, and the Rules for admitting existing and intermediate nurses to the Register, and that their colleagues, together with every member of the Council, have very carefully considered and guarded their interests in every particular. This they will be able to verify at an early date when the Rules approved by the Minister of Health are on sale.

The postponement for further consideration of Section 6 (a) which provides that the Council "shall make Rules . . . enabling persons registered as nurses in Scotland and Ireland . . . to obtain admission" to the English Register, as suggested by Sir Alfred Mond to the Deputation of nurses who waited upon him on July 7th, will, we have no doubt meet with the approval of the Council, especially as the Secretary for Scotland has withdrawn the proposal to put a section of certificated fever nurses on the General Part of the Scottish Register, and with it the demand (which the English Council would never concede) to place them on the corresponding (General) Part of the English Register, without practical experience in a general hospital or infirmary.

In the meanwhile, nurses trained in Scotland and Ireland who are resident in England, will suffer no injustice, as they are eligible for registration on the English Register upon the same terms as those trained in England.

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF POOR LAW NURSE TRAINING SCHOOLS.

CONDITIONS OF NURSES' SERVICE.

A Conference of Representatives of Poor-Law Nurse Training Schools, representing thirty-four Boards of Guardians, and the Association of Poor-Law Unions, was held on the afternoon of Friday, July 8th, at the City of London Union Offices, 61, Bartholomew Close, E.C.1, when the business placed on the Agenda for discussion included (1) the standardisation of salaries of Probationer Nurses in Poor-Law and Voluntary Hospitals, (2) Question of Hours of Duty of Hospital Nurses, (3) a Circular Letter from the Registrar, General Nursing Council (dated May 28th, 1921) with reference to the adoption by Poor-Law Training Schools of the Curriculum of Training laid down in the Syllabus issued by that Council.

Councillor Frater, Chairman of the Tynemouth Board of Guardians, was voted to the chair, and Mr. Tom Percival was appointed Hon. Secretary of the meeting. The latter read a letter from the Chairman of the General Nursing Council stating that the Council had decided it was not

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