

"That the fee for the Final Examination for Mental Nurses be the same as for the other Supplementary Parts of the Register," but he was not sure whether he would be in order in developing this argument on the Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that he could not know, till he heard what Dr. Goodall had to say.

DR. GOODALL thereupon said that he did not agree at all with his colleague (Dr. Bedford Pierce). The Mental Nursing Committee were continually bringing up Resolutions, and then wanting to take them back. This was an attempt to make nurses entering for the examination for the other parts of the Register pay in part for those engaged in Mental Nursing. The Education Committee was almost unanimous in its recommendation of a three guinea fee for the Final Examination. He believed the attempt to reduce the fee in the case of Mental Nurses came from a certain Trade Union. (Order, order!) The Asylum Workers' Union was at the back of all this, or of a good deal.

MISS WIESE: "You are wrong, Sir. The Medico-Psychological Association say the fee must be reduced."

DR. GOODALL hoped they would have arguments as to why the fee should be reduced.

He compared the financial position of Mental Nurses with that of General Nurses, and supported his arguments by figures from the salaries offered in advertisements for probationers. In connection with large General Hospitals and Infirmaries the lowest commencing salary he had observed was £18, and the highest (in one or two Poor Law Infirmaries) £30.

In Asylums, after all deductions were made, £39 and £40 commencing salary was a usual figure. Under the L.C.C. male nurses might receive £70, rising to £85, and uniform as well. Other male Mental Nurses received £77, rising to £140, and Female Nurses £44, rising to £66.

In addition, many Mental Nurses received Proficiency Pay after they had passed the first examination of the Medico-Psychological Association.

MISS WIESE here interposed: "On a point of order, are we discussing probationers' salaries?"

THE CHAIRMAN: "On a point of order, we are discussing whether we shall send back the Recommendation as to the Examination Fee for Mental Nurses to the Education Committee."

DR. GOODALL continuing, said that one institution paid a special bonus of £2 10s. in addition to Proficiency Pay. He realised that the work was exacting, repulsive, and dangerous, and quite agreed that the nurses should be well paid, but that was quite a different thing from coming there and asking for charity. Nurses training in mental hospitals could not justify this claim, for they were much better off than those in other classes.

The demand did not come from any large body of nurses. They recognised that their status would be improved by registration, and that if they had to pay they would have value for their money. It was amazing to him that the objection should be made on behalf of the best paid body of nurses.

Further, under the Metropolitan Asylums Board nurses were also trained for the Fever Register and the Children's Register, and it was sure to be asked, if this was done for the Mental Nurses, why not for the others.

Again, the Nursing Profession was, he thought, the only one the members of which did not pay for their training. He had two daughters and had had to put his hand into his pocket to pay for their training, and he did not think their prospects were any better than those of the nurses. He hoped the Council would not allow the Recommendation to go back to the Education Committee.

MR. DONALDSON agreed almost entirely with Dr. Goodall, but thought an undertaking had been given to the Medico-Psychological Association to consult them on this point.

THE CHAIRMAN stated that no undertaking was given. One person said so.

MISS WIESE said she was very anxious that Mental Nurses should take the State Examination. The Secretary of the Asylum Workers' Union realised that Mental Nurses would not do so if the examination fees were as proposed. The work was arduous and disgusting, and they would not get nurses to do it for 14s. 9d. a week. Also they often had to spend money on extra food. It must further be remembered that Mental Hospitals were usually isolated, and fares were a considerable item.

MR. STRATTON considered that the Male Nurses were able to pay the fees. He had only had one complaint.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE asked if he was in order in speaking again. Dr. Goodall had made a long speech, lasting twenty minutes, and he had had no opportunity of replying.

THE CHAIRMAN: "Nor will you have, Sir."

The Amendment to refer back the Recommendation was lost, only three voting for it.

The Recommendation—

"That the fee for the Final Examination for Mental Nurses be the same as for the other parts of the Register" was then carried by 17 votes to three.

The Report of the Education and Examination Committee was adopted as a whole.

Report of Mental Nursing Committee.

The Report of the Mental Nursing Committee was then presented by the Chairman, Dr. Bedford Pierce, who moved that it be received.

On an application from the North Evington Poor Law Infirmary, Leicester, for approval as a Training School for Mental Nurses, the Committee laid down the principle that Poor Law Infirmaries are not in a position to provide treatment for acute mental disorders, as the only certified patients they have under care are of the chronic infirm type. They, therefore, do not think they can be satisfactory Training Schools for Mental Nurses.

The Committee reported on the Questionnaire sent to Mental Hospitals preparatory to recommending their approval as Training Schools. Generally speaking, little difficulty is anticipated in training mental nurses in accordance with the General Nursing Council's Syllabus. Certain Hospitals state it will be difficult to give all the nurses (especially male nurses) six months' training in bedside nursing.

On the question of allowing Registered Mental Nurses to obtain a two years' course of training in General Nursing the Committee reported that, in fourteen instances, favourable replies were received, in fifty-seven the replies were unfavourable, and in three no reason whatever was given.

The Committee do not appear lacking in optimism, as they consider the tone of the replies helpful and encouraging.

They recommended, "That the Registrar keep a list of Hospitals whose authorities are willing to receive Registered Mental Nurses for a two years' course of training in General nursing."

MR. DONALDSON criticised the recommendation. It appeared as if the list were to be kept secret by the Registrar.

The Recommendation was, after some discussion, amended as follows:—

"That the Approved Hospitals whose authorities are willing to receive Registered Mental Nurses for a two years' course of training in General Nursing be incorporated in the list of Approved Training Schools kept by the Council."

MISS WIESE said that it had been stated that two London Hospitals had agreed to take Registered Mental Nurses as probationers, but only one had agreed to do so. The authorities of the Middlesex Hospital had not. It was

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)