

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A MEETING OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W, on January 25th, 1952. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

New Year Honours.

The Chairman congratulated Miss A. Catnach, member of Council, upon being awarded the C.B.E. by His Majesty the King in the New Year Honours, also it was agreed that the congratulations of the Council be sent to Dr. W. Russell Brain upon receiving a Knighthood. He was member of Council from 1942-47, appointed by the Minister of Health.

Finance.

Bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the Council considered *in camera* a letter from the Ministry of Health regarding estimates of nurse-training expenditure; scales of salary for members of Council's staff up to and including the grade of Principal Clerk, and a report on matters relating to the retiring age and superannuation of the Council's staff.

Registration.

It was agreed that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales accept for admission to the General Part of the Register in this country under the provisions of Section 10 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1949, persons trained in accordance with certain specified schemes of training in Malta and registered by the Medical Board for Malta; and that the draft agreement be approved and forwarded to the Medical Board for Malta.

It was agreed that the names of 830 nurses who have failed to pay their consolidated retention fees due on December 31st, 1951, for the retention of their names in the Register of Nurses without limit of time, be removed from the Register in accordance with Rule 5 (3) of the Rules framed under the Nurses Acts, 1919-49.

Education and Examination.

It was reported that the Committee has considered further the question of a pass at ordinary level in certain subjects of the General Certificate of Education granting exemption from Part I of the Preliminary Examination; and in this connection has approved the Syllabus submitted by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate for the subject "Human Biology" for inclusion at ordinary level in the examination for the General Certificate of Education.

It was agreed that the approval of the Minister of Health be sought to the necessary amendment of the Rules prescribing the qualifications of Nurse Tutors in order to make it clear that the requisite experience as Ward Sister or Male Charge Nurse must have been gained in a ward in an approved Training Institution in which Student Nurses are trained.

A draft document was agreed setting out the theoretical and practical training it is considered student nurses should receive during periods of secondment for experience in special branches of nursing be approved.

Disciplinary Cases.

The Registrar was directed to remove the names of James Leonard Lisett, S.R.N. 173432, Henry Loble, S.R.N. 175331, and Raymond Frank Skidmore, S.R.N. 176613 from the Register of Nurses under Rule 27 (3) as they were undergoing terms of imprisonment for homosexual offences.

The name of Kathleen Emily Madgwick, S.R.N. 129862 was restored to the General Part of the Register.

The case of Alexandrina MacKenzie, S.R.N. 54461 was dismissed.

The Council postponed judgment on the misconduct proved against Georgina Naris, S.R.N. 80425, R.F.N. 5046 for the period of one year.

The case of James Christopher Quick, R.M.N. 13920 (judgment postponed for one year in January, 1951) was dismissed with a caution.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, February 22nd, 1952.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Supplementary Register of Assistants in Hydrotherapy.

SOME TIME AGO THE Chartered Society decided that in order to ensure a satisfactory standard of treatment in hydrotherapy establishments and in order to bring this class of worker under the aegis of the Chartered Society as the responsible professional body, it would make itself responsible for the training and registration of persons carrying out, or assisting in carrying out, certain hydrotherapeutic treatments at hydrotherapy establishments throughout the country. The Council of the Chartered Society therefore agreed to inaugurate a scheme of training leading to examination and registration on a Supplementary Register of Hydrotherapy Assistants to be maintained by the Chartered Society.

The training is intended for persons who wish to perform certain hydrotherapeutic treatments but who do not wish to take the full training for membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and the additional training to obtain the Society's Certificate in Hydrotherapy. It is envisaged that no evidence of general education, such as School Certificate, will be required, but that candidates may be required to take a simple educational test to assess their general suitability for the training, to submit proof of physical fitness and of age, and references as to character. The minimum period of training, including a trial period of three months, is one year, but some students may require more than this minimum. The minimum age of entry to the examination is 18.

As a preliminary step in looking after the interests of of Hydrotherapy Assistants the Council decided to open Part I of the Supplementary Register for "existing" Hydrotherapy Assistants and the Provisional List. Applicants for admission to Part I must have completed five years' satisfactory experience in Hydrotherapy at an institution approved for this purpose by the Chartered Society and where patients are under the care of a registered medical practitioner. Applicants for admission to the Provisional List must have completed two years' experience under similar conditions. *The period before which this experience must have been obtained has now been extended to October 1st, 1951; the last date for applying for admission has been extended to September 30th, 1952.* Applicants admitted to the Provisional List are eligible for transfer to Part I on completion of a total period of five years' experience.

The fee for admission to either Part I or the Provisional List is one guinea.

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On reading the conditions laid down for the Supplementary Register for Assistants in Hydrotherapy which would appear to be a facsimile of the Assistant Nurses' Roll incorporated in the Nurses Act of 1943, we wonder if the fully qualified Hydrotherapists feel, as a great number of the fully qualified Registered Nurses do, that it is an injustice to the fully qualified, as the public do not differentiate between a Roll and a Register, and more-over the Assistants have the same privileges and the remuneration is surprisingly comparatively high.

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