

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.1, on March 26th, 1954. Miss D. M. Smith, Chairman, presided.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sums of £6,100 for Cash Account, £500 for Postage, and £2,000 for Examiners' Claims were allowed.

Recommendations of the Committee concerning a review of scales of salary for all grades of the Council's staff were considered by the Council *in camera*.

It was agreed that subject to satisfactory financial arrangements being made with the Colonial Office, Miss Houghton, the Education Officer, be granted leave of absence for a period not exceeding eight weeks to visit hospitals in Nigeria at the invitation of the Colonial Office and advise on nurse-training facilities there.

Education and Examination.

The following successful results of the February, 1954, Examinations were announced from the Chair.

Preliminary Examination:

Parts I and II	1,337
Part I only	2,115
Part II only	2,257
	— 5,709

Final Examination:

General Part	2,994
Male	217
Mental	191
Mental Defective	52
Sick Children	161
Fever	60
	— 3,675

Several schemes of affiliation between hospitals were withdrawn, and approval as Training Schools were granted. Pre-Nursing Courses were approved.

Disciplinary Cases.

Disciplinary cases were considered and after consultation *in camera* the following results were agreed:

"Judgment on the conviction proved against Hannah Ellen Burnett Mills (*née* Foster), S.R.N., 178398, was postponed for twelve months, as was also agreed concerning Eva Marie Weiss, S.R.N. 180173.

"The case of Barbara Blake (*née* Woodhall), S.R.N. 183486 was dismissed with a caution."

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was arranged for April 23rd.

Hospitals Will Train Apprenticeship Scheme Cooks.

A NATIONAL SCHEME has been agreed for training apprentice cooks in hospitals in the Health Service. It has been drawn up by the Ancillary Staff's Council, which is the Whitley Council concerned with pay and conditions of service of the domestic workers, including cooks, employed in hospitals. This agreement provides for the setting up of a National Joint Apprenticeship Committee which is authorised to approve hospital establishments capable of giving proper training, to

register apprentices, male or female, accepted as suitable, and generally to ensure that a high standard of training is maintained.

Apprenticeships are to be for a period not exceeding five years, generally from the normal school leaving age of 15-16 years. Training will cover all aspects of cookery, and apprentices will also be able to study at a technical college on one day a week, or the equivalent, for the City and Guilds of London cookery diplomas. Male apprentices will also be able if they wish to secure deferment from National Service until the end of their apprenticeships.

This is the first national apprenticeship scheme to be introduced into the hospital service, and has been made possible by the co-operation of the Management and Trade Union Sides of the Ancillary Staff's Council.

Much has already been done to improve hospital catering organisation and equipment, and the raising of the standard of training of staffs is, in the long term, an integral part of these efforts. All hospital authorities have been invited by the Minister of Health, Mr. Iain Macleod, to participate in the scheme but he has pointed out that it will probably be sufficient, as well as providing the best training if one or two hospitals only in each area become training centres.

In welcoming the scheme, the Minister is not unmindful of the value of the apprenticeship schemes of shorter duration which have been in operation in a number of hospitals during the past few years, and which have already produced apprentices capable of holding their own in competitions organised by the Catering Industry. These hospitals will have the opportunity of adapting their arrangements to fit in with the new scheme.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT by the Minister of Food, Major the Rt. Hon. Gwilym Lloyd George, M.P., in the House of Commons on April 6th that the Associations of Local Authorities in England and Wales have agreed to take over responsibility for the distribution of welfare foods* (other than liquid milk) to mothers and young children when the local offices of the Ministry of Food close, the Minister of Health, Mr. Iain Macleod, M.P., has sent a circular to all local authorities in England and Wales outlining the new arrangements.

The Minister asks the authorities to start at once on preparing their plans for taking over the whole of the local distribution arrangements by the end of June. The distribution will be undertaken as part of the duty of the authorities to provide services for the care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children under Section 22 of the N.H.S. Act, 1946.

* National Dried Milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and Vitamin A and D tables.

What to Read.

Biography and Memoirs.

"Jonathan Swift," by J. Middleton Murry.

Fiction.

"The Pearl Seekers," by Norman Bartlett.

"Under the Coolibah Tree," by G. F. Young.

"Royal Purple," by D. A. Ponsonby.

"Portrait Unfinished," by April Jaffe.

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