

in order to visit Nigeria and advise on nurse training facilities at the University College Hospital, Ibadan.

Miss Houghton has now received a letter from the Secretary and Principal Tutor of the School of Nursing, University College Hospital, Ibadan, inviting her to serve as a nurse examiner from the United Kingdom on the Board of Examiners of that hospital. This would involve Miss Houghton's collaboration in the setting and marking of examination papers and her attendance at the Practical Examinations; the first examination is to be held in December, 1955, and subsequently once yearly.

It is understood that the expenses of the visit and a fee covering Miss Houghton's salary during her absence would be paid by the Board of Management of the Hospital.

The matter has been considered by the Finance Committee and by the three educational Committees of the Council, who are of opinion that in view of Miss Houghton's personal contact with this hospital and the help and advice she has been able to give them in the past in connection with the training of nurses, it should be recommended that Miss Houghton be permitted to accept the invitation to serve on the Board of Examiners for this first examination, and be granted leave of absence in December for a period not exceeding six days, in order to participate in the practical examination.

It was further agreed, however, that it would not be possible for the Council to agree at this present time to Miss Houghton's attendance as an examiner at subsequent examinations to be held in Ibadan, and that it should therefore be made clear to the Hospital Authorities that her acceptance of their invitation to serve on the Board of Examiners was in respect of the first examination to be held in December, 1955.

House of Commons Disqualification Bill.

Messrs. Martin & Co., the Council's Parliamentary Agents, have forwarded to the Council a copy of the House of Commons Disqualification Bill, which had its first reading on July 12th, 1955, in view of the fact that this Bill proposes to repeal *inter alia* Section 19 of the Nurses Act, 1949.* Messrs. Martin & Co. explain that the purpose of the Bill is to embody in one comprehensive measure the whole statute law relating to disqualification for membership of the House of Commons, which has hitherto been covered by a number of Acts dealing exclusively with the matter and also provisions in many other Acts, including the Nurses Act, 1949, dealing with specific classes of persons.

The Bill relates only to *appointed* members of the Council, and to those members of the Mental Nurses Committee, Assistant Nurses Committee and Area Nurse-Training Committees appointed by the Minister of Health. The position of such members, should they be or become members of Parliament during their term of office, would not be altered by the Bill beyond the fact that they would not be eligible to receive any allowances from the Council under Section 18† or Section 9 (3)† of the Nurses Act, 1949, during the time they were members of Parliament.

In the opinion of Messrs. Martin & Co., it would seem that there is no action the Council need take in the matter, but they will inform the Council when the Bill is to be read a second time, and will keep the Council informed of any developments which may be of interest to them.

* Section 19 of the Nurses Act reads as follows:—

19. A member of the Council, the Assistant Nurses Committee, the Mental Nurses Committee, an area nurse-training committee or a sub-committee of an area nurse-training committee shall not, by reason of his membership, be rendered incapable of being elected, or of sitting and voting, as a member of the House of Commons.

† Section 18 of the Nurses Act reads as follows:—

18. The Council may pay to the members thereof and to the members of the Assistant Nurses Committee sums (to be calculated in accordance with directions to be given by the

Minister) in respect of any loss of earnings they would otherwise have made or any additional expenses (including travelling and subsistence expenses) to which they would not otherwise have been subject, being loss or expenses necessarily suffered or incurred by them for the purpose of enabling them to perform duties as members of the Council or of the Assistant Nurses Committee, as the case may be.

Section 9 (3) makes similar provision in respect of members of the Mental Nurses Committee.

Disciplinary Cases.

The following cases were considered by the Council, and it was agreed that the case of Hetty Isobel May, S.R.N. 224159, be dismissed; judgment was postponed for one year on Winifred Elma Perrott, S.R.N. 100122; the Registrar was directed to remove the name of Derek Freail, S.R.N. 217051 from the Register of Nurses; and the case of Beryl Bryant, S.R.N. 168641 be postponed for one year.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, 28th October, 1955.

How significant that the honour of Vice-Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales should fall to the Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the cradle of the movement for the State Registration of Nurses!

Christmas Seals make a Christmas Tree.

A CHRISTMAS TREE made of Christmas Seals is this year's novel idea for the hundred and ten million Christmas Seals for letters and parcels to be sold on behalf of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. The Seals are in many different designs and combine to form a gaily decorated Christmas Tree hung with lanterns, crackers and presents. The whole sheet of 100 seals costs 4s. and Christmas cards in a similar design at 5s. per dozen (with envelopes) can be obtained from the Duchess of Portland, Chairman NAPT, Tavistock House North, London, W.C.1, on or after October 18th.

In the last 20 years hundreds of thousands of pounds have been raised in Great Britain for the work of the NAPT and its affiliated Care Committees in research, education and welfare by the sale of Christmas Seals. The scheme was first started in Denmark more than 50 years ago, and later spread all over the world. Each Seal has a small double-barred Red Cross—the international symbol of the crusade against tuberculosis.

So Christmas Seals are very much of a success story, but, more important still, the fight against tuberculosis is beginning to be a success story too. At the recent NAPT Conference this summer it was stated that we now had the knowledge and the technical facilities for reducing tuberculosis to a minor role within 25 years, given an enlightened public health policy. But there are still a quarter of a million tuberculous patients in Great Britain today, and about 10,000 deaths a year from tuberculosis, so much has yet to be done to bring the success story to its right conclusion.

The work of the NAPT, which is a purely voluntary body largely financed by the Christmas Seal Sale, plays an important part in the anti-tuberculosis campaign. The Association sponsors medical and social research, awards scholarships to doctors, nurses and health officials—especially from the Commonwealth—arranges conferences and lectures, publishes and produces journals, films and leaflets—many in local languages for use in Colonial territories and—most human and personal service of all—helps patients and their families through its Social Welfare Department and its confidential Information Bureau.

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