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**Editorial.**

**THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF REGISTRATION.—II.**

The next point, in this connection, which we propose to consider is the expense of carrying out the Registration of Nurses. It is quite evident from the views expressed by many witnesses before the Select Committee that very few, even of those who have thus shown themselves interested in the general question, have carefully considered this important practical detail. Indeed, the only witness who brought forward definite figures was Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and it is worthy of note that, although his statistics were criticised by several witnesses, no one was prepared to prove that they were inaccurate. There are good grounds to believe that, as he himself stated, his figures will prove to be within the mark, rather than to have been in any way exaggerated. For the moment, we will not deal with the estimated receipts, because we desire to discuss the expenditure side of the account. The annual cost to the General Nursing Council for printing, postages, and stationery, Dr. Bedford Fenwick placed at £2,000; the office expenses (including rent) at £1,500; the legal expenses at £200; and the miscellaneous expenses at £300. In each case, the estimate was made from the corresponding and very analogous expenses of the General Medical Council. But, in most instances, the estimate exceeded the actual outlay of that body, for reasons with which it is impossible not to agree. The object of the whole account was to show that it would be possible, by a moderate payment on the part of each registered nurse, to completely cover the entire expenses of Registration; and, therefore, it was but prudent to estimate the latter as greater than they are likely to be, and the income as less than it will probably prove; so that, if there were any error, it would be on the safe financial side. Even with these precautions, the estimate showed a probable

excess of income over expenditure each year; or, in other words, proved that the nurses' payments would be more than sufficient to cover the expenditure of the General Nursing Council.

There is, however, one important detail, to which we have not yet referred—that the "Payments to Members of the Council and Committees" was estimated by Dr. Bedford Fenwick at £5,000; he added that this would probably be outside the mark, as the General Medical Council only paid its members about £4,300 a year.

One or two witnesses have scoffed at the idea of so large an outlay under this heading, and therefore it will be worth while to consider the point at some length. The members of the General Medical Council are paid not only a fee for each day's actual attendance at Council or Committee meetings, but also their railway fares to and from London, and their hotel bills whilst on duty in London. It is quite certain that the medical members of the General Nursing Council would demand the same pecuniary consideration during their attendances; and there is no obvious reason why the nurse members of the Council should not be equally well treated.

Considering it would be to the interest of the public and of the medical and nursing professions that those best able to carry out such important work, as would devolve on the Council, should become members of that body, it would be the most short-sighted economy, as well as needless parsimony, to pay them badly for their work. In the next place, we believe that very few people, even amongst those who have most carefully studied the whole question, have in any degree realised the immense work which, as we will show next week, will devolve on the General Nursing Council, especially for the first five years of its existence. And the performance of such work will demand frequent meetings of the Council, and still more frequent meetings of the various Committees appointed by the Council to consider and carry out details.

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