

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT.**THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.**

Invitations have been issued by the Minister of Health to the Nursing Organisations mentioned in the Schedule to the Nurses' Registration Act—the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses, the College of Nursing, the Royal British Nurses' Association, and to other Nursing Societies, to submit names for his selection in appointing the sixteen nurses on the First General Nursing Council for England and Wales. At a special meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held on the 15th inst., the letter from the Minister was read, and action taken.

The Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses met on Saturday, 17th inst., to receive the nominations from the constituent Nurses' Societies—the Matrons' Council, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, the Fever Nurses' Association, and the National Union of Trained Nurses. It was agreed that the lists of names submitted should, with the qualifications of the nominees, be forwarded to the Minister of Health as soon as possible.

It is very necessary that those accepting nomination should realise that if selected to serve on the General Nursing Council, much time will be required if they are to perform their responsible duties efficiently, and this will be required of them both by the Minister of Health and the Nursing Profession.

NURSES REGISTRATION (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1919.

The Scottish Board of Health are taking steps towards the constitution of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, established by the Nurses Registration (Scotland) Act, 1919. On the first constitution of the Council thirteen of the fifteen persons composing the Council are to be appointed by the Scottish Board of Health. Four are to be appointed after consultation with persons and bodies having special knowledge and experience of training schools for nurses, of the work of matrons of hospitals, of general and special nursing services, and of general and special medical practice, and nine of the persons to be appointed by the Board of Health must be, or must have been at some time, nurses actually engaged in rendering services in direct connection with the nursing of the sick.

The Board are anxious that the new Council should be of a thoroughly representative character, and they would welcome suggestions for membership of the Council, but all recommendations should be accompanied by a statement of the special qualifications and experience of the persons suggested for membership.

NURSING ECHOES.

Dame Amy Fanny Tate, of Park Hill, Streatham Common, S.W. (widow of Sir Henry Tate, Bart., founder of the Tate Gallery), who died in October last, leaving real estate of the value of £340,433, has bequeathed large sums to charities, and we are glad to note that Nursing Associations and nurses are remembered. Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute receives £4,000; the Brixton Nursing Association, Tulse Hill, £500; the Head Nurse of the Sir Henry Tate Memorial Home, Tulse Hill, and the other nurses there, £100 each; her executors, for the doctors, nurses, and attendants at her last illness, £500. The Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem also receives £1,000.

Lieut.-Col. Goodall, R.A.M.C., Officer in Charge of the Cardiff City Mental Hospital, will have the sympathy of medical practitioners and nurses in his determination to place, where necessary, trained and certificated female mental nurses to care for male mental patients, and we hope ignorant opposition to this humane departure may not influence his Committee to revert to the now obsolete system of depriving male patients of such skilled care.

Lieut.-Col. Goodall informs us that the statement made at a meeting of the Cardiff Trades and Labour Council that during the war, when "young V.A.D. nurses, new to their work, were in the wards, incidents had occurred which had made the male attendants feel ashamed of their sex in the presence of such young girls," is entirely without foundation, and that no V.A.D.'s have been employed at the Cardiff City Mental Hospital from beginning to end of military occupation.

We are pleased to know this, and hope, as soon as the rules for the Supplementary Register of Mental Nurses under the Nursing Acts are defined, a great impetus will be given to well-educated young women, not girls, to apply for training in mental hospitals, and qualify themselves to nurse mental patients. We believe a great number of these suffering people might be cured by trained nursing skill. From very widespread evidence we learn much yet remains to be done, especially in large private asylums, to better the standard of care and nursing bestowed on paying patients.

We are glad to observe that ten years was added to the actual service of Miss Annie Smith, the retiring Matron of the Kingston Infirmary, by the *Guardians*, for the purpose

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