

SIR JENNER VERRALL, seconded by Dr. Goodall, moved that all full-time paid appointments should be advertised.

This was lost.

MISS COX DAVIES moved that the appointments of solicitor and auditors should not be included in the posts advertised. This was seconded by Sir Jenner Verrall and carried.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK pointed out that, according to the Act, the Auditors were appointed by the Minister of Health, therefore they could not be included in the Resolution.

On being put to the vote Mr. Christian's motion was lost.

BILLS AND CLAIMS.

SIR JENNER VERRALL, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented Bills and Claims amounting to £124 17s. 10d.; of this £11 13s. 8d. was for expenses of selected candidates for the post of Registrar, £110 9s. 5d. for travelling expenses and subsistence allowance of members of the General Nursing Council, and £2 14s. 9d. for typing.

The Bills and Claims were passed for payment.

It was agreed that the Council should rise for six weeks.

The meeting then terminated.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND THE STATE REGISTRATION FEE.

The *Poor Law Officers' Journal* of July 30th contains the following comment:—

'MORE LIGHT ON NURSES' FINANCE AND THE STATE REGISTRATION FEE.

"Some persons will find it a little difficult to fit together two of the more recent statements with regard to the registration and position of nurses. One of these refers to the combined Endowment Fund for the College of Nursing and the 'Nation's Fund' for Nurses. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the College, writing to Lord Burnham, says:— 'You will, I am sure, be glad to hear that the College has received very valuable support apart from that which has reached it as a result of the appeal in the *Daily Telegraph*, and that the Tribute Fund—that part of the Nation's Fund which provides for nurses in sickness and distress—has, thanks to your efforts, nearly reached the figure of £100,000 which is what we have set ourselves to obtain.'

"The other statement has reference to the original promise to nurses that if they would join the College of Nursing they would be 'automatically and without further fee placed on the State Register when the Nurses' Registration Bill is passed.' We quoted last week from the letter sent out by Sir Arthur Stanley on this matter. It is now reported that 'in reply to Sir Arthur Stanley's letter to members of the College of Nursing, the Secretary of the College is receiving a large number of letters full of appreciation and gratitude for all the achievements of the College, and many, anxious that there shall be no doubt as

to who is to pay the State registration fee, enclosed a cheque for one guinea.'

"The result should be very gratifying to the College. But is there not a possibility of further doubts, explanations, and financial evolutions? Here are a 'Tribute Fund,' an 'Endowment Fund,' and a sum of £100,000 on one side. On the other 'many nurses' are enclosing not postal orders, or 'Bradbury's,' but 'cheques'; evidences at least of financial ability, so anxious are they to remove any doubts about the fees. Or is it that their anxiety is with regard to registration?

"These 'many nurses who have sent cheques' have apparently greater belief and confidence in future possibilities than knowledge of business affairs. Why they should have opened their cheque books in such haste seems not to be explained, but perhaps on the understanding that instruction is one of the duties of a College. The statement proceeds to say that 'the Secretary, however, points out that until the Regulations under which nurses may have their names put on the State Register have been published, all that is known about the fee is that it cannot be more and may be less than one guinea. When the Regulations are published, members will apply individually to the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for application forms and all particulars, and will pay their fees direct to her. The same routine will be necessary for College members who state that they joined the College on the definite belief that that body would pay the State Registration fee, except that when they have paid their fees to the General Nursing Council they should write to the Secretary of the College enclosing the receipts, when the amounts they have paid will be refunded to them.'

"In more explicit terms, State Registration and its fee are not the business of the College. It would, as we hinted last week, have been ingenuous at once to have made that explanation. With the return of the amount paid for the fee, including the 'many cheques,' this might have greatly strengthened the estimation in which the College could be held. It is right again to refer to this subject, for a contemporary article, apparently inspired, says:—

"The misconception as to the State Registration fee is evidently based on the following extract from a circular sent out by the College in June, 1916, of which some people remember only half: "Every certificated trained nurse should apply at once for registration by the College of Nursing (1) because the Council of the College of Nursing has drafted a 'Nurses' Registration Bill,' which provides that the Register already formed by the College of Nursing shall be the first Register under the Act. If, therefore, you are on the College Register you will, automatically and without further fee, be placed upon the State Register when the 'Nurses' Registration Bill' is passed." But the Bill was not passed, and therefore the provision lapses.'"

This enunciation of a moral principle is worth recognition, although there are people who would

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