

EQUIVALENT STANDARDS FOR REGISTRATION.

An interesting discussion took place on the demand of the General Nursing Councils for Scotland and Ireland for automatic registration between the three countries, and the objection of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to deprivation of power of discretion in placing nurses on its Register as provided in the Acts. It was pointed out that such a system would establish a dangerous precedent and place the Councils in a most anomalous position and that the system of requiring equivalent standards was in force between the three Midwives Boards, and worked without friction.

The Council declared itself strongly in favour of providing Rules for equivalent standards for registration by the three Councils as the only means whereby the Registers could be guaranteed and discipline maintained. It was agreed that without discretionary powers as to who should and who should not be placed upon the Registers, registration would be useless and well-trained nurses would not register. The hope was expressed that the nurse members on the three Councils would stand firmly for the great principle involved, as it was their duty to protect the interests of the Nursing Profession as a whole. The Rules would be keenly criticised when available and unjust provisions resented.

THE REPORT OF THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

The Report was considered and it was agreed that it was very superficial and most unsatisfactory. More definite information should have been inserted. That a list of subscribers should be given and the receipts should have been classified (1) for the endowment of the College of Nursing, Ltd., (2) for the Benevolent Fund for Nurses. Strong exception was taken to the items £38,650 for the College Company, £4,214 spent on advertising, £1,192 10s. on salaries, £1,000 on printing, and £966 on entertainments, when, during two-and-a-half years the "Nation's Nurses," in whose name the appeal had been made, had only received the pittance of £2,144 11s. 6d., after the very undesirable publicity given in the Press and the streets to nurses, as objects of public pity and charity.

The Council wanted further information concerning the £50,000 allocated by the Red Cross Society to the Tribute Fund in 1919, and to know whether or not a second £50,000 had been diverted to the Trustees of the Fund in August, 1920. As the Financial Reports of both the Nation's Fund for Nurses and the British Red Cross Society were a year in arrears, and so far no report for 1920 available, it was agreed to obtain a direct reply to this question from the Charity Commissioners, who presumably had the information.

A Resolution was passed unanimously approving of the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the origin and working of the Nation's Fund for Nurses, as the Council was not satisfied with the meagre report

issued after a three and a-half years' appeal by the British Women's Hospital Committee, and specially resented the very limited help given to the nurses in comparison with the large grant to the College, and the thousands spent in advertising and office expenses.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR NURSES.

The President made a Report of the Conference held at the Labour Ministry on January 2nd between representatives of the Ministry and hospital officials and representatives of Nurses' organisations, when those present were unanimous in presenting the strong objections of probationers and nurses to being included in the Act. The President pointed out it was a very unjust tax on charitable institutions and nurses, who would be compelled for years to pay for so-called benefits they would never claim, thus a very large sum of money extracted from them would be utilised for various classes of industrial workers for whom the scheme was devised.

So far no statement had been issued by the Minister of Labour as to whether he is prepared to consider the claim of nurses to be excepted from the Act.

It was to deal with such legislation that the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council would, if well supported, be of very great value to the profession in the future, especially as it had a professional journal conducted by experts at its disposal.

A very interesting meeting then terminated.

M. BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Trained Nurses holding a Certificate of Training, after examination, for not less than three years, are eligible for Membership of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. Subscription, £1 is. annually, including THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

LEGAL MATTERS.

NURSES' LIBEL ACTION AGAINST DOCTOR.

A case of considerable professional interest is the libel action heard last week in the King's Bench Division before Mr. Justice Darling and a Special Jury when Miss Edith Heywood Grime, Matron, and Miss Alice Rainforth, Senior Nurse of the Hornsey Cottage Hospital, sued Dr. Peter Robert Ingram of Kildrummy, Muswell Hill Road.

The action referred to incidents in connection with a patient suffering from septicaemia due to a carbuncle, admitted to the hospital under the care of Dr. Ingram.

The words complained of were written to the Chairman of the hospital, Mr. J. Scott Balfour, by Dr. Ingram, in a letter dated July 1st, 1919,

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