

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

MEETING, MARCH 16th, 1921.

The Registrar submitted a letter from the Scottish Board of Health enclosing copy of the Board's Memorandum on the subject of the supply of Hospital Nurses, together with their Remit to the Consultative Council on Medical and Allied Services, and the Report of the Committee appointed by the Consultative Council following on that Remit. These documents were remitted to the Education and Examination Committee of the Council for consideration.

A letter was submitted from the Scottish Board of Health with regard to a request received by the Board from certain Hospitals that the Board's Examination should be continued in order to ensure that nurses commencing training after 1st January, 1920, might have their knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene tested by examination at an early period of their training. The Council were of opinion that the point raised is of importance to all nurses commencing training any considerable time before the Council's Examinations are in operation, and that it was not a matter affecting specially the nurses covered hitherto by the Board's Examination. After discussion, the matter was remitted to the Education and Examination Committee.

The Registrar submitted a Summary forwarded by the Scottish Board of Health showing the total number of Fever Nurses on the Board's Register to date to be 1,137, of whom 622 had received further training in the larger General Infirmarys and Hospitals, Military Hospitals, &c., leaving only 515 nurses on the Board's Fever Register who have Fever training only. The Board also pointed out that of these, 93 were known to be dead, married, abroad, or not practising. Of the remaining 422 nurses, over 200 obtained the Board's Fever Certificate as recently as the years 1919 and 1920, and the Board added that it was probable that a considerable number of these were at present undergoing further training in General Hospitals, and that it should be understood that the number stated above as dead, married, abroad, &c., is probably far from complete. The Registrar was instructed to thank the Board for the Memorandum and to state that the Council were pleased to note that so small a number of nurses on the Board's Fever Register would be eligible to apply for admission to the General Register.

It was reported that the Syllabus Committee had adjusted the Questionnaire to be sent to the various Hospitals and that copies were being sent out as soon as possible. It was further reported that this Committee had not yet been able to complete the Draft Syllabus of Training for future nurses, but that same would be completed before next Meeting of the Council.

UNJUST TO GENERAL TRAINED NURSES AND MISLEADING TO THE PUBLIC.

We gather from this report that the General Nursing Council for Scotland has failed to stand firmly against the demand of the Scottish Board of Health to place nurses certificated by it as Fever nurses on the General Nurses' Register. This is most unfair to thoroughly trained general nurses, the more so as the Nursing Council for Scotland has framed rules for a Supplementary Register of Fever Nurses. It will be also very misleading to the public.

IRISH NURSING BOARD.

The Irish Nursing Board, which compiled a Voluntary Register before the Nurses' Acts were passed, has now dissolved. It met a useful purpose in impressing upon Irish nurses and the public the necessity for efficient standards, but the Board now realises that the State having taken over the work of examination and registration of trained nurses, only confusion would result by a continuance of this work by a voluntary body.

REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council has placed the need for Rank for Service Nurses before the new Secretary of State for War, the Right Hon. Laming Worthington-Evans, and informed him that Canadian and American Nurses already enjoy the privileges attached to relative Rank. Let us hope he will find time to give consideration to this reform. It ought to be in the forefront of the activities of the Nursing Board at the War Office; but these sort of official Boards are not famed for reforms.

We have received quite a number of private letters recently from Army Sisters thanking us for making Rank for Nurses a live question, and saying it is difficult to agitate for themselves.

The American Nurses have made the presentation of a purse to Mrs. Helen Hoy Greeley, their brilliant advocate, who did so much to win from Congress relative Rank for them in the Army Nurse Corps. The expression of gratitude was made at a luncheon in New York City, when Miss Nutting, with characteristic grace, expressed feelingly the appreciation of the nurses to Mrs. Greeley for her faithful and loyal fight for their interests and achievements.

HEALTH WEEK IN 1921.

The Secretary of the Health Week Committee, appointed by the Royal Sanitary Institute, announces that H.M. the King and H.M. the Queen have again graciously accorded their patronage to "Health Week," which will be held this year during the month of October.

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