

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The thirteenth meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on Thursday, March 24th, at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W. Mr. J. C. Priestley, K.C., Chairman of the Council, presided.

The minutes of the last meeting, which had been circulated to members of the Board were then discussed, and with one amendment confirmed.

Correspondence.

THE CHAIRMAN then presented the following letters:—

HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT BILL.

(1) A letter from Mrs. Paterson, Edinburgh, expressing intense regret that the General Nursing Council had decided to withdraw nurses from the Hours of Employment Bill. Mrs. Paterson stated further that for years those who had watched the youth and brightness being crushed out of our finest girls, had worked and hoped and prayed for just such a Bill, and now, when at long last their dream seemed about to become true, to learn that it had been frustrated by the very Council to whom they looked for assistance, was very hard to bear and to understand. She concluded by asking the reasons for such a decision.*

SPECIAL DISTRICT TRAINING.

(2) A letter from Miss Irene Hett, Joint Hon. Secretary of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, forwarding a copy of a resolution passed by the Central Council for District Nursing in London at their meeting on February 28th and asking for any observations of the General Nursing Council in due course, so that they might be put before her Executive Committee.

The Resolution stated that the Central Council for District Nursing in London had been approached by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, in regard to the need of special training in tuberculosis work for district nurses. The Lock Hospital had also communicated with the Central Council in regard to special training for nursing venereal diseases. The Central Council had, therefore, decided to give special consideration to the question of the district training provided and required by the Associations over and above the three years' training in hospital. They had considered and approved the syllabus of practical and theoretical training given by the Queen's Jubilee Institute and the Ranyard Nurses, and

* The Council, by a very small majority, decided to recommend that Trained Nurses be excluded from the Labour Minister's Hours of Employment Bill, and also that the Minister of Health be asked to bring in a Bill to deal with this question, and affirmed its approval of a 48 hours' week. The General Nursing Council has no power to withdraw nurses from any Bill. It can merely express an opinion on nursing legislation.

were now directing attention to the arrangements made by the smaller associations federated with the Council, and would report on this question in due course.

In the meantime they considered that the attention of the Training Schools for Nurses should be drawn to the large amount of additional instruction needed before a fully-trained nurse was equipped for district work, and they recommended that the foregoing be communicated to the General Nursing Council for consideration in connection with the training of nurses.

The letter was referred to the Education and Examination Committee.

LETTER FROM THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

(3) A letter from Miss Maude MacCallum, Hon. Secretary of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, conveying the following Resolution passed at the first meeting of free members on January 29th:—

"That this meeting of Free Nurses of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses wish to express most emphatically its desire to be included in the Hours of Employment Bill (No. 2) to be introduced into the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour."

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION.

(4) A letter from the Secretary of the Nursing and Midwifery Conference and Exhibition, addressed to the Registrar, stating that the Nursing Conference, which is now in its eleventh year, had proved so useful as a means of discussing various questions affecting nurses, as well as of hearing lectures by medical authorities, that it was suggested that it should be put on a permanent basis, and inviting the Registrar to arrange a Registration Session.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK proposed that the Council should adhere to the decision made at its meeting on February 2nd, that it should have no representation on any outside body. The Exhibition was a useful commercial undertaking, but the persons who organised it were not trained nurses, and it was inadvisable for the Council to associate itself with commercial ventures.

This was unanimously agreed.

EQUIVALENT STANDARDS OF QUALIFICATION.

(5) A letter from Miss Margaret Breay, Hon. Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, conveying the précis of a discussion which took place at a meeting of that Council, on the necessity for the adoption of equivalent standards of qualification for registration between the three parts of the United Kingdom.

PRÉCIS OF DISCUSSION WHICH TOOK PLACE AT A MEETING OF THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1921.

An interesting discussion took place on the demand of the General Nursing Councils for Scotland and Ireland for automatic registration

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