

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W., on Friday, June 3rd, at 2 p.m. Mr. J. C. Priestley, K.C., Chairman of the Council, presided.

The minutes of the last meeting, which were in the hands of the Council, were taken as read, and, with one alteration, confirmed.

Correspondence.

RESIGNATION OF MISS TUKE.

Under the heading of correspondence a letter was read from Miss Tuke, Principal of Bedford College (nominee of the Board of Education), stating that she found that College business prevented her from attending business Committees of the General Nursing Council, and she was therefore writing to Sir Amherst Selby-Bigge to tender her resignation of her seat. The year's business on the Council had been deeply interesting to her, although she feared she had not been of much use.

It was agreed to thank Miss Tuke, whose resignation was received with regret, for her services, and to communicate with the Board of Education in regard to the vacancy which had thus arisen.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES SUPPORT STANDARD OF GENERAL TRAINING.

A letter was also received from the National Union of Trained Nurses enclosing a Resolution giving its support to the General Nursing Council in maintaining the standard of training, and insisting upon a term of general training for all nurses to be admitted on to the General Register. The letter was acknowledged.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER OF ORTHOPÆDIC NURSES PROPOSED AND REJECTED.

A letter was received from the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare, asking the General Nursing Council to further the work of the Central Council, the Hon. Secretary of which was Dr. G. R. Girdlestone, in its care of cripples, by forming a Supplementary Register of Orthopædic Nurses. It stated that a Sub-Committee had circularised the Orthopædic Hospitals, and submitted the following questions: (1) Do you consider that nurses trained in Orthopædic Hospitals should be granted a certificate as Orthopædic Nurses? (2) Do you consider that Orthopædic Nurses should have a shortened period of training?

An enthusiastic opinion had been expressed by the authorities of these hospitals as to the recognition of Orthopædic Nurses as such.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said there was a strong feeling on the part of the Council against any further depreciation of the value of general training. She objected strongly to the proposal of instituting any further supplementary registers

of specialists. If they were to open a register for orthopædic nurses why not for nurses of every kind of ailment? This request was one more attempt to meet the economic demands of nursing in special hospitals. Orthopædic nursing should in the future have its place in the general scheme through co-operative training.

MISS SPARSHOTT, MISS LLOYD STILL, DR. GOODALL, and MISS MACCALLUM expressed agreement with Mrs. Fenwick's views, Miss MacCallum saying that orthopædic surgeons did not have a special register, why then should orthopædic nurses?

The Headquarters of the Council.

The CHAIRMAN then made the happy announcement that the Council hoped to get into its new premises at 12, York Gate, Regent's Park, during the following week, and that Her Royal Highness Princess Christian had been invited, and had consented, to open these Headquarters on Friday, June 10th, at 3.30 p.m. He proposed that they should issue invitations to the chairmen and matrons of the London Hospitals with medical schools attached, to the heads of other institutions, and public bodies concerned in the training of nurses, and other representative persons, whose names were detailed, including Lords Ampthill and Novar, Major Chapple, and Major Barnett, M.P., who had charge of the Registration Bills in the Houses of Lords and Commons, as well as to the officers of the Nurses' Organisations which had been so much interested in promoting State Registration of Nurses.

It was further agreed that the Archdeacon of London should be invited to offer prayers as a part of the opening ceremony.

Report of the Registration Committee.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK (Chairman) presented the Report of the Registration Committee, and moved that it be received and approved.

(1) New Rule 4 (b) providing that after the two years' term of grace the fee for Registration for Intermediate Nurses, in conformity with the previous decision of the Council, should be £2 2s, and £1 1s. in respect of admission to any subsequent part of the Register.

This was agreed.

(2) Rule 13 (now 16) had been re-drafted and sent to the General Nursing Councils for Scotland and Ireland for their opinion. This Rule, which provided for the Registration of Nurses registered in Scotland and Ireland, had originally required evidence of "equivalent standards." The Health Departments of the three parts of the Kingdom had apparently come to the conclusion that this was not in accordance with the provisions of the Acts, although it was a fundamental principle incorporated in the 56 Registration Acts passed in all parts of the world. The Ministry were upheld by their legal adviser and upon reference by the Law Officers of the Crown. Although not agreeing with this interpretation of sections of the Act, which apparently granted discretion in this

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