

had framed the Rules for the conduct of business and for the Registration of Existing and Intermediate Nurses, which received the approval of the Minister on the 14th July last, when the Register was opened.

The main object of the Act was the Organisation of the Nursing Profession under Statutory Authority. The Council set the good example to other women's statutory bodies of appointing a professional Nurse-Registrar, instead of a layman. Standing Committees were appointed to deal with Finance, Registration, Education and Examinations, Discipline and Penal Cases, Mental Nursing, and General Purposes.

Mrs. Fenwick emphasised the fact that the Act grants the Registered Nurses the privilege of financing their own Governing Body, thus they maintained their independence. She pointed out, however, that a guinea fee was very inadequate for this purpose in these times of huge taxation, and in consequence costly administration, and in the future no doubt the fee would be raised.

She then turned to the printed Rules and touched on some of the points of most importance to the Nursing Profession. She asked her audience, however, not to forget that though a General Nursing Council might work strenuously, and with devotion, the success of the Register and the consolidation of the profession, its usefulness and ultimate power for good, were in the hands of the individual well-trained nurses themselves. United, they had a splendid opportunity of raising their profession to front rank, and she had not the slightest doubt but that they would do it.

THE RULES.

The little brown book which she held in her hand appeared a simple object, said Mrs. Fenwick, but it contained very important information—the standards laid down for the registration of Existing and Intermediate Nurses and the provisions for maintaining high ethical standards in their ranks—to which Registered Nurses would have to conform. She considered, therefore, it was the duty of every nurse to study them. Existing nurses were those trained and in practice before November 1st, 1919, Intermediate Nurses those with not less than three years' hospital training, completed subsequent to that date and who held a certificate to this effect.

The Rules were in eight Parts and comprised fifty-two Clauses, and she could assure them that those responsible for drafting them had weighed the effect of every word and every sentence, as it affected the welfare of the Nursing Profession.

The Composition of the Register.—The Register was composed of five Parts. A General Part for general medical and surgical nurses, and Supplementary Parts for the registration of Male Nurses, Mental Nurses, Sick Children's Nurses, and Fever Nurses.

Mrs. Fenwick explained why it was necessary that during a period of grace for the first two years after the opening of the Register nurses who did not possess the highest qualifications—a

Certificate of not less than three years' training—a qualification to be enforced later—would be admitted to the Register if they had been trained for one year and in practice before November 1st, 1919.

In framing new legislation, Parliament seldom made it retrospective. It was careful not to deprive workers of their power of self-support by establishing standards to which they had not been obliged to conform. There was justice in this, but in all cases evidence of one year's general training and two years' subsequent experience would be required as a minimum, under conditions which appeared to the Council to be satisfactory and that applicants had adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick.

During the period of long delay in enacting legislation, thousands of highly efficient women had entered the Nursing Profession. They had submitted themselves to a lengthy and arduous term of three or four years' systematic training, to examination, and had been awarded highly-valued Certificates testifying to their proficiency; to these nurses it might appear superfluous to register side by side with those less qualified, and everything should be done to record their high qualifications on the Register. Justice should also be done in this particular.

Mrs. Fenwick said we must go back to the history of the passing of the first Medical Act, in 1858, for an analogous position, when it was said that anyone who could draw a tooth was placed on the Register. But the Act provided that all medical titles, diplomas, and qualifications conferred by any Corporation or University (not omitting the Archbishop of Canterbury) should be entered of all persons appearing on the Register, so that the professional status of each person registered was seen at a glance.

EXISTING NURSES.

In the case of Existing Nurses, therefore, the qualifications for admission to the General Register were (1) a Certificate of not less than three years' general training obtained before November 1st, 1919, and (2) Evidence of one year's general training and two years' subsequent practice.

INTERMEDIATE NURSES.

An Intermediate Nurse was a nurse who completed her three years' training, and had been awarded a Certificate subsequent to November 1st, 1919, and before July, 1924, on which date the training and examination rules would come into operation.

FEEES.

The fee for Existing Nurses in the first instance was £1 1s. and 10s. 6d. on any subsequent part of the Register. For Intermediate Nurses, £2 2s. and £1 1s. on any subsequent part, with an annual fee of 2s. 6d., principally with the object of keeping addresses corrected up to date for publication in the Register.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTERS.

Mrs. Fenwick next discussed the question of Supplementary Registers. During the enormous

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