

The much-discussed Syllabus of Training promoted by the General Nursing Council is, we are glad to note, waking up Guardians and others responsible for the nursing of the sick poor.

The Steyning Board of Guardians, at a recent meeting, discussed the desirability of the separation of the infirmary from the work-house proper. The union, under the care of the Board, includes the town of Hove, with a population of 46,519, and controls an area with a total population of some 111,000. One reason for the proposed separation is that in order to comply with the curriculum approved by the General Nursing Council the Guardians will have to provide the means for improved training for nurses. The present training received by probationers is regarded as inadequate for the after-treatment of acute medical and surgical cases. A year ago a theatre was fitted up for minor operations, and arrangements were made for the reception of paying patients requiring such operations. A sub-committee has now been appointed to prepare a tentative scheme for ensuring the adequate training of nurses.

Congratulations to the Steyning Board!

We are informed, states *The Red Cross*, by the Joint Nursing and V.A.D. Services Committee of the United Services Fund that the Compassionate Sub-Committee has met twice during October to deal with applications for assistance from trained nurses and V.A.D. members.

Since the Fund opened in May, grants have been made to trained nurses amounting to £407 approximately, and to V.A.D. members amounting to £899 approximately. Some of these grants have been made to assist with living expenses, others to give treatment or help with convalescence.

### THE BETROTHAL OF PRINCESS MARY.

The following announcement was issued from Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening:—

"It is with the greatest pleasure that the King and Queen announce the betrothal of their beloved daughter, Princess Mary, to Viscount Lascelles, D.S.O., eldest son of the Earl of Harewood.

"At a Council held at Buckingham Palace this evening His Majesty was pleased to declare his consent to the marriage."

The Nursing Profession will, we feel sure, wish to convey to Her Royal Highness and her fiancé their heartiest good wishes for future happiness.

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Nineteenth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W., on Friday, November 18th. In the absence of the Chairman (Mr. J. C. Priestley, K.C.), Sir Jenner Verrall was elected to the chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and, with one correction, confirmed.

### Correspondence.

#### Record of Certificates on the Register.

A letter was read from Mr. Priestley, Chairman of the Council, stating he had received communications from nurses on the question of recording Certificates on the Register, and expressing the opinion that if the Council decided not to insert them it would not deprive the nurses of their Certificates. It was agreed that letters on this subject should be read in connection with the Report of the Registration Committee.

#### Protection of Title of Registered Nurse.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

October 28th, 1921.

SIR,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to advert to your letter of the 14th instant, relative to the notice required to be given under Section 8 (1) (a) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, of the compilation of the Register. The Minister is advised that, while the proper construction of paragraph (a) presents considerable difficulty, it is extremely doubtful whether the fact that the work of registration has begun is sufficient to justify him in giving public notice that a register "has been compiled" under the Act. The use of the phrase "has been compiled" would seem to imply that the statutory notice was not intended to be given until the register had reached a stage at which it could be printed and made available to the public. Until the first register is printed and issued, there would in practice be no means of ascertaining whether any individual nurse who claimed to be registered was, in fact, so registered or not, without application to the Registrar for a certificate under Rule 15. It would follow therefore that even if a nurse falsely described herself as registered, this mis-description would be unlikely to be discovered; and the practical effect of the statutory notice being given at this stage would be negligible, even assuming that it is competent to the Minister to give notice before the first register is printed. If the Council attach importance to the matter, the Minister is prepared to have the legal point further considered, but as at present advised, he is disposed to defer taking action until the register is available to the public.

As regards the syllabus of training adopted by the Council, the Minister notes that this will be incorporated in the Rules which will be submitted in due course for his sanction.

The Minister shares the regret of the Council that Miss Tuke has found herself compelled to resign, and he notes that the Board of Education have appointed Miss A. T. Steele to succeed her.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) L. G. Brock.

The Chairman,  
General Nursing Council,  
12, York Gate,  
Regent's Park, N.W.1.

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