

Act, with the proviso that any Society must satisfy him that they were in a position to carry out the work properly, which would mean, *inter alia*, the disbursement of a certain amount of money from their funds. Why should not twenty thousand pounds of the Nation's Fund for Nurses be handed over to any Nursing Society or combination of Societies, who would undertake to administer the Act according to the requirements of the Minister of Labour?

MAUDE MACCALLUM, *Hon. Secretary.*

### POOR LAW GUARDIANS AND THE SYLLABUS OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

It will be remembered that when the Conference of Poor Law Nurse Training Schools met in London last July it adjourned until a later date. The adjourned meeting was held at the Offices of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board on November 23rd, the Rev. P. S. G. Propert, M.A., President of the Association of Poor Law Unions, and Chairman of the Fulham Board of Guardians, presiding. Between the first conference and the adjourned meeting the deputation appointed at the former had been received by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The Chairman stated that since the deputation had waited upon the Council (when it was understood that the Syllabus of training was in its final form) the position had materially changed, inasmuch as it had been decided that this Syllabus must first receive the approval of the Minister of Health.

Mr. Propert said he shared in the highest possible aspirations for high standards, but the deputation regretted that in the early stages the Council adopted arbitrary and autocratic measures, ignoring by far the largest representation of training schools. Matters could not possibly be permitted to remain as they were. It would be regrettable if guardians were forced into antagonism. The General Nursing Council could not be permitted to ride roughshod over their views. If no other course were possible they must appeal to the Minister of Health, or finally to the House of Commons, to protect them.

No doubt the General Nursing Council represented the professional interests of the profession—and they (the Association of Poor Law Unions) also represented those of the employer.

The Minister of Health would not allow the work of nursing the sick in the infirmaries to be seriously hampered.

They did not wish to be antagonistic and would prefer the matter to be settled privately.

The Chairman of the North Middlesex Hospital said the voting on the Nursing Syllabus had been 34—27; 27 had therefore approved of the Syllabus. They did not want to get rid of it. The Poor Law Hospitals had raised their heads, and the inefficient must be wiped out.

He asked who had drafted the Resolutions before the meeting? Who had seen them? Mr. No-

body. The Chairman's own Board had approved the Syllabus. It was all right to help the weaker Training Schools, but they must not start by lowering the standard.

Were they, he asked, to turn their backs on the work of Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Miss Barton?

Miss Dowbiggin (Member General Nursing Council) hoped that the meeting would not go back on the Council. It desired to help the smaller Training Schools, the grouping of which should be made in consultation with it. The Syllabus had been published early in the proceedings, as it was but fair the future candidates for the nursing profession should know the standard to which they would have to attain, before application for training.

The Conference adopted a number of Resolutions incorporating, amongst others, the following points:—

1. Asking that in view of the changed position created by the decision that the Syllabus of Training is subject to the approval of the Minister of Health the General Nursing Council should be asked to issue a Supplementary Circular in order to make clear that the Syllabus, as originally issued is not necessarily in its final form.

2. That the Conference while cordially acknowledging and approving of the ambition of the General Nursing Council to establish the highest possible standard of training, considered that the Syllabus of Training set up a standard which was impracticable at the present time, and suggested that the Council should adopt a policy of working up by stages to the ideal Syllabus now formulated.

3. That the Syllabus of Examination now understood to be in course of preparation should outline explicitly the subjects upon which the candidate will be examined.

4. That the Association should have an opportunity to examine and submit their views on the Draft Syllabus, prior to its being submitted to the Minister of Health.

6. That the first State Examination for admission to the State Register of Nurses should be deferred until 1925.

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### MATRONS.

**Maternity Institution, Norwich.**—Miss Eveline Buckley has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Victoria Children's Hospital, Hull, and at University College Hospital, London, and has been Staff Nurse and Sister at Queen Mary's Maternity Home, Hampstead.

**Dean's Isolation Hospital, County Borough of South Shields.**—Miss H. Powell Evans has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and at Belvidere Fever Hospital, Glasgow, where she subsequently held the position of Sister. She has also held the positions of Night Superintendent at the Borough Hospital, Darlington, Sister at the West Bromwich Hospital, and Matron of Norman's Riding Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**Isolation Hospital, Wallington.**—Miss Elizabeth Coggan has been appointed Matron. She was trained

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