

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Twentieth Meeting of the General Nursing Council, convened to be held on Friday, December 16th, 1921, at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, did not take place, as there was not a quorum, and, therefore, no business could be transacted. The members present were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Susan A. Villiers, Miss Isabel Macdonald, Miss E. Maude MacCallum, and Mr. Christian.

At 2.30 p.m., the Registrar (Miss M. S. Riddell) announced that there would not be a quorum as she had received letters from Miss Dowbiggin and Miss Cattell, stating their inability to be present.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said the Members of the Council present knew there would not be a quorum, but it was their duty to attend and there they were. They would wait for fifteen minutes and then adjourn. This was agreed.

Important business on the Agenda and the 500 Applications for registration to be recommended for appointment by the Council were thus unfortunately held over.

### A QUESTION IN THE HOUSE.

In the Orders of the Day for Wednesday, December 14th, the following question was down not for oral answer, to which a written reply was given on Monday, December 19th:—

#### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

Sir H. Nield asked the Minister of Health whether he was aware that the chairman and two-thirds of the members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales have resigned office and, in consequence, that the work of the Council has been wholly suspended; what are the circumstances which have brought about this deplorable state of things; and, in view of the importance of the State Registration of Nurses proceeding, what steps have or will be taken to put an end to the deadlock which has arisen?

Sir A. Mond: The Chairman of the Council has resigned and two-thirds of the members have resigned with him or have intimated their intention of doing so unless he can be persuaded to withdraw his resignation. I have asked the resigning members to see me, and I am hopeful that the difficulties may be adjusted. But I cannot at this stage make any statement as to what further steps may be necessary to take.

Sir Herbert Nield, K.C., is member for Ealing.

In reply to several letters on this question we prefer to wait events—as a full and sufficient statement cannot be made at this stage. Those nurses we have urged to register will, we feel sure, realise that their professional interests are, as they have ever been for the past forty years, our first consideration.

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

### NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was held at 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, December 14th, 1921, at 2.30 p.m. Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., Chairman of the Council, was in the chair.

The Registrar submitted a letter from the Scottish Board of Health, recommending that the fees for Nurses in training before issue of Rules should be raised to the same fees as those charged by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the General Nursing Council for Ireland. After considerable discussion, the Council decided that the fees should be raised to the same scale as the other countries, namely, £2 2s. in the case of the first part of the Register, and £1 1s. in the case of any second or subsequent part of the Register.

It was decided, however, that such increase should not take effect until March 1st, 1922, so that all applications received by February 28th will be accepted at the present scale.

In regard to re-registration of nurses already registered in another country, it was pointed out that, under the Rule understood to have been adopted by the English Council, such a nurse was required to fill in an Application Form and forward Certificates of Training and Certificates of Character, &c., exactly as if she had not already done so before being placed on the Register of the other country. This was felt by the Council to be giving unnecessary trouble to the nurse, and the Registrar was instructed to communicate with the English Council on the subject and point out that in the view of the Scottish Council the procedure for re-registration in the second country should be made as simple as possible and that evidence of existing registration in the first country would appear to be all that was necessary for re-registration in the second country.

How would this arrangement pan out in the case of a nurse who was registered in a Dominion overseas ten to twenty years ago, and who has been working at home for several years? We know of such cases.

### THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., Kt., has been appointed Chairman of the General Nursing Council for Scotland. He is a solicitor, is LL.D. Edinburgh University, and a J.P. for the City of Edinburgh and for Argyllshire. Sir John has been Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and Lord-Lieutenant of the County of the City, and has held other public positions. He was formerly member of the School Board and of various other educational bodies. In politics Sir John is a Liberal, and he is unmarried.

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