

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Sixteenth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on Thursday, July 14th, at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W. Mr. J. C. Priestley, K.C., Chairman, presided.

Correspondence.

AUTOMATIC REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER.

The correspondence included :—

1. A letter from the General Nursing Council for Scotland. The Scottish Council proposed that if a nurse registered by any of the three Councils should be removed from one Register, for cause, she should be automatically removed from the other two.

The CHAIRMAN said this proposal had been dealt with in a previous letter from Scotland, and the Council had adhered to Rule 29.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that she had always been most anxious that Registered Nurses should have an appeal to the High Court if removed from the Register. The Act provided for this. If the Council agreed to the proposal made by the Scottish Council, nurses would be removed from the English Register without a hearing, and would in the first instance have to appeal to the Scottish Courts and not to the High Court in England. She objected to the Council being liable to an appeal to the High Court unless it had removed a nurse from the Register after investigation. She hoped the Council would not reopen the question but would adhere to its former decision now incorporated in the Rules. English nurses would be greatly aggrieved if deprived of their right of appeal to their own governing body and to the English High Court.

MRS. FENWICK proposed that a reply should be sent to the Scottish Council in this sense.

MISS SPARSHOTT supported Mrs. Fenwick's views and seconded the resolution.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE enquired what would happen in the case of a frivolous appeal.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the procedure incorporated in the Rules was that, on the Council being notified that the name of a nurse on the English Register had been removed from the Scottish Register, the Registrar would communicate with the nurse, who would have the right, if she so desired, to be heard by the Council in this country before her name was removed from the English Register. The principle underlying this provision was that the nurses felt strongly that those on the Register here should not be at the mercy of any other Council. In the same way, nurses on other Registers might feel that they should not necessarily be removed from the Register in their own country because they were removed from ours, though no doubt this would usually be the case.

DR. GOODALL thought the Council was quite prepared to take the risk of a frivolous appeal.

The CHAIRMAN then put to the meeting the proposal that the English Council should notify Scot-

land that it had considered the letter, and adhered to the opinion which had been previously expressed. This was unanimously agreed.

NURSING OF TUBERCULOSIS.

2. A letter from Dr. Peter Edwards, Hon. Secretary of the Society of Superintendents of Tuberculosis Institutions, asking the Council to remit part of the general training in the case of a nurse who had passed through a prescribed course of training in a Tuberculosis Institution, and to receive a deputation on the subject.

DR. GOODALL thought it was not necessary to receive the deputation. All the members of the Council were alive to the desirability of affiliated training, which would be considered in due course.

It was agreed to reply in this sense, and, if necessary, when affiliated training was under consideration, the Council would communicate with the Society again.

INSPECTION OF TRAINING SCHOOLS.

3. A letter from the Matron of the Mildmay Mission Hospital, Bethnal Green, asking if a representative of the Council would visit the hospital, which was a general hospital of 50 beds, giving a three-years' course of training, in order that they might know what would be required of it to be approved as a training school.

DR. GOODALL pointed out that the Council had not yet settled the principle on which beds should be recognised for training.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE thought the letter showed the right spirit.

MISS DOWBIGGIN thought there were many hospitals in the same position wishing for information.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK hoped that every hospital would be inspected before being placed on the list of Approved Training Schools for the training of "future" nurses.

It was agreed that the Matron be informed that the matter would be dealt with when the question of reciprocal training is considered.

Letter from the Minister of Health.

The next Business was to consider the following letter from the Minister of Health, addressed to the Chairman :—

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

DEAR MR. PRIESTLEY,

July, 1921.

I have received your letter of the 6th instant, submitting for my approval the Rules framed by the General Nursing Council under Section 3 of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, for the admission of existing nurses to the Register. I am prepared to sign these Rules at once, subject to the omission for the time being of Rule 16. I feel grave doubt as to the validity of a reciprocity Rule which inferentially excludes Scotland, and its publication in this form could not fail to prejudice the negotiations in which I am now engaged, with the object of securing the adoption in Scotland of a standard uniform with that of England and Ireland. A settlement is now in sight, and I do not anticipate that the outstanding points will be incapable of a satisfactory solution. I am entirely

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