

### PRESS OPINIONS ON THE G.N.C.

From the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*.

#### THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL: EXPLANATIONS WANTED.

Like the mechanical stage animal that has ignominiously collapsed, the Nursing Council has been hoisted to its feet once more and has restarted its laborious progression. Mr. Priestley has allowed his resignation to stand, but the sixteen or seventeen stalwarts who followed him out have re-considered their position and are back again. Thus the Council is the same old Council and the quorum is no longer (for a time at least) in danger. There is a new Chairman, in the person of Sir Wilmot Herringham. What we do not understand is the cause of the breakdown. What we do understand is that the die-hards who resigned have let down Mr. Priestley very badly. The Ministry of Health has issued a statement denying several suggested explanations of the stoppage, but fails to volunteer the true explanation. Why should this hole-and-corner method be adopted in dealing with the affairs of a public statutory body that has been entrusted with certain specific duties of a most important character affecting the well-being of a whole profession consisting of many thousands of persons and in a wider sense affecting the public generally? Whatever the reason, however, it is clear that Mr. Priestley thinks it has not been removed, otherwise he would have come back in response to the Minister's invitation. Although the reason, therefore, clearly remains, the other members have swallowed their objections to it. How long it will be until the "reason" reasserts its presence we cannot say, but it is clear that those who predict blue skies for this epoch-making body are living in a fool's paradise. The cause that led to Mr. Priestley's resignation will undoubtedly reappear before long, and there must be a recrudescence of the trouble which has paralysed the Council's activities for several weeks. We feel very strongly about the failure to issue a public statement as to the causes which, for several weeks, put this public statutory body out of commission. An explanation is due to the public and, not least, to the nurses who subscribed or are about to subscribe. What guarantee is there that the trouble will not recur? The late Chairman apparently is not quite satisfied. He has declined to return to the scene of his former labours and the restless spirits who went out with him and then changed their minds are now, it appears, meekly accepting from the new Chairman advice on the conduct of public business that might be retailed to a school debating society.

The Ladies' Committee of the Nurses' Memorial to King Edward announce that Hazelwood House, Glasgow, will be ready for occupation this summer as a Home for retired nurses. The Committee wishes it made known to nurses in Glasgow and the West of Scotland that terms of admission are now available from 16-18, Sardinia Terrace, Glasgow.

### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

MEETING, 13, MELVILLE STREET, EDINBURGH.

FEBRUARY 15, 1922.

The Registrar submitted a letter from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, submitting Draft Rules which they propose to make in regard to Existing and Intermediate Nurses trained partly in a hospital for men only, and partly in a hospital for women only. The Registrar was instructed to reply that the Council had no objection to offer to these Rules.

The Registrar submitted letters from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales dated 6th and 13th inst., the first transmitting a copy of the Rule made by the English Council in regard to re-registration of Nurses already registered in Scotland, and the second asking for a copy of any similar Rule drawn up by the Council in regard to re-registration in Scotland of nurses already registered in England. It was pointed out that under the Rule made by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, a Nurse already registered in one country would require, on going to the other country, to produce original certificates and give references as to character &c., exactly as if these had not been already obtained by the Council in the first country where she registered. Looking to the fact that nurses, in the course of their employment very frequently went from one part of the kingdom to another, the Council feel that this Rule would be a great hardship. After discussion, the Registrar was instructed to reply to the English Council that, as already stated to them, the Council feel very strongly that for the benefit of the nurses, re-registration should be made as simple as possible, and suggesting that the Rule should be altered to the effect of providing for the re-registration of a nurse already registered in the other country on a Certificate by the Registrar of the Council for that country that such nurse was already on their register. The Registrar was instructed to add that until this matter was adjusted, the Council had not thought it necessary to frame any Rule in regard to re-registration of English Nurses, but that, provided the matter was dealt with reciprocally, the Council were prepared to pass a Rule providing for re-registration without the necessity of Applicants again producing original Certificates &c.

Two hundred applications for registration which had been scrutinised by the Registration Committee, were passed by the Council, and it was reported that the applications received now amounted to over 1,000.

The Report of the Education and Examination Committee was submitted by Colonel Mackintosh, who moved in terms thereof that a future Nurse with not less than three years' training in a General Hospital approved by the Council should be eligible (after passing the Council's Examination) for the General Register, and that Hospitals

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