

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The twenty-third meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, on Friday, April 21st. In the absence of the Chairman of the Council, Dr. Goodall proposed that the Rev. G. B. Cronshaw take the chair,

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK considered that the chair of the Nursing Council should be taken by a Registered Nurse. She proposed that Miss Lloyd Still take the chair. Miss Lloyd Still declined, and seconded Dr. Goodall's proposal. The chair was then taken by the Rev. G. B. Cronshaw.

The Minutes of the last meeting were submitted for approval.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK drew attention to the omission from the minutes of any record of the savage anonymous attack made by the Chairman upon a member of the Council who was allowed no right of reply. Why had this been omitted by the Registrar?

The Chairman suggested the matter might be deferred until the Chairman of the Council was present. Mrs. FENWICK considered business should be dealt with as it arose.

It was agreed, upon the proposal of Miss Cox-Davies, that a reply to this question should be deferred until the Chairman returned.

Correspondence.

The correspondence included:—

THE USE OF THE LETTERS R.N.

1. A letter from the Admiralty in reply to one from the General Nursing Council as to the use of the letters R.N. on the shoulder straps of the Registered Nurses' uniform, stating the opinion of the Lords Commissioners that the use of the letters R.N. would be misinterpreted, and they would be glad if the General Nursing Council could see its way to adopt some other letters.

Referred to the Registration Committee.

AMENDED RULES.

2. Letters from Mr. L. G. Brock, on behalf of the Minister of Health—

Stating that the Minister had approved Forms 1A and 1B to Second Schedule as submitted. Stating that in the opinion of the Minister Rule 8 was not free from ambiguity.

Also in reference to the recommendation of the Council that when a nurse is still in the service of the Institution where she was trained the reference of the Matron shall be sufficient, the Minister was prepared to accept the testimony of the Matron as to professional efficiency, but was of opinion that another name should be given as a referee as to character.

Approving Rule 9 1 (A) as submitted by the Council after its last meeting in substitution for that approved on February 3rd.

Also the addition to Rule 11 (1) dealing with conjoint training.

Also agreeing to the request of the Council that the Minister defer action with regard to the Prescribed Scheme for the Constitution of the Council submitted on February 20th until the system of voting is considered and embodied in the scheme.

REGISTRATION IN THE CROWN COLONIES.

3. A letter from the Colonial Office on behalf of Mr. Secretary Churchill, stating that he had asked to be informed as to legislation providing for the registration of Nurses in Canada, Newfoundland, the Australian States, New Zealand and South Africa, and to be supplied with copies of any legislation in force.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that the letter agreed at the last meeting to be addressed to the Secretary for the Colonies was not in reference to legislation in the self-governing Dominions, but that some legislation should be introduced by the Colonial Office for the registration of nurses in the Crown Colonies.

It was agreed to ask for further information re the Crown Colonies.

PROTEST FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

4. A letter from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Hon. Secretary of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses enclosing copies of Resolutions carried unanimously at a meeting of that Committee held in London on April 1st. (Copies of these Resolutions appeared in our issue of April 8th).

ON BEHALF OF THE PROFESSIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

5. A letter addressed to the Minister of Health and the Chairman of the General Nursing Council:—

DEAR SIR,—At the Annual General Meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses, which was duly convened on March 31st, 1922, the following letter was put before the members by the President. The Officers of the Union were instructed to sign and forward it on behalf of the members to the Minister of Health and the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. PAUL, *Chairman.*

SIR,—We, the undersigned, desire to offer a very strong protest on behalf of the Hon. Secretary of this Union—Miss Maude MacCallum—for the way in which she has been treated by the General Nursing Council, of which she is a member. We are not deceived by the reason given by Miss Coulton for moving a Resolution, substituting a new rule for Rule 43 (2), by which all Standing Committees (other than the Standing Committee of the whole Council) should go out of office, and new Committees be appointed. The result of the subsequent election to those Committees is abundant proof that the *true reason* was to deprive the minority, who are opposed to the policy of the

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