

DR. GOODALL said he took entire responsibility for sending the returns to the Minister, and said the Minister had power to dissolve the Council at any time.

VOICE: "The sooner the better."

He believed it was in this connection that the Minister required these returns.

The Report was agreed.

#### Report of the General Purposes Committee.

The Report of the General Purposes Committee was presented by the Honble. Mrs. Eustace Hills.

It stated that Mrs. Hills had been appointed Chairman of the Committee. That the Chairman of the Council had in an emergency authorised the Registrar to obtain a substitute in place of one of the chief typists, and recommended that in view of the fact that a similar emergency might occur at any time that the Registrar be empowered to take emergency steps to obtain such help as required and report to the Committee. It further recommended that every case of sickness or accident should be considered on its own merits, and, unless otherwise decided, three months' sick leave on full pay be granted to members of the permanent staff if occasion arose, and that those who received Insurance Benefit should refund this to the Council.

The Committee also recommended that having reviewed the personnel and the duties of the present clerical staff, they did not see their way to recommending any reduction of the same, though they viewed with great anxiety the future financial position of the General Nursing Council.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK took exception to the Registrar being empowered to engage substitutes. The General Purposes Committee could be called together at a few hours' notice. It involved the principle of the expenditure of money and selection of staff by an official, without the authority of the Committee appointed for the purpose.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP, MISS LLOYD STILL and DR. GOODALL supported the proposal.

MISS SWISS thought the Council ought to be ashamed to overwork the staff as it did.

MISS COX DAVIES said that on the evidence they received as the result of their enquiries it might be absolutely necessary to increase the staff.

The Report was agreed.

#### Report of the Mental Nursing Committee.

The Report of the Mental Nursing Committee was presented by Dr. Bedford Pierce who moved that it be received.

It stated that Dr. Bedford Pierce had been re-appointed Chairman of the Committee, that the Syllabus and Schedule of Training were considered and approved, but before asking the Council to approve it, it was decided to print a few copies of a confidential draft for the consideration of the representatives of the Mental Hospitals Association, and of selected persons with special experience in mental deficiency training.

It was further reported that an informal conference was being arranged for May 3rd with the above.

The Committee had considered the position of

mental nurses engaged as artizans, and had sent up a recommendation to the Education Committee that one year's ward experience and two years' responsible care of patients engaged in occupations, should be recognized as qualifying for training as an Existing Nurse.

They also recommended that holders of the Medico-Psychological Association Certificate be eligible for admission to the General Nursing Council's examination for admission to the General Register if they have had two years' additional training in a General Hospital or Poor-Law Infirmary approved by the Council.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK asked whether this recommendation referred to existing, intermediate or future nurses.

Dr. Bedford Pierce said it must refer to future nurses as the examinations were for them.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK presumed that the Council would hold its own examination and grant its own certificate for Mental Nurses in the future, as in the case of other classes of nurses. To agree to the recommendation as worded would pledge the Council to accept the M.P.A. Certificate for future nurses.

The recommendation was referred back for the definition of a time limit.

The Report was agreed.

#### Other Business.

MISS MACCALLUM drew attention to the case of a nurse who had been officially notified of Registration as a Mental Nurse, whereas she had never had any mental training.

The REGISTRAR explained that the notice was a clerical error, the nurse had not been entered on the Mental Register, and she had written and explained to the candidate.

Mention was also made of letters sent to the office receiving no replies.

The REGISTRAR then alluded to the incident of a nurse being kept waiting at the office for over an hour. It was an oversight. She explained that Miss —, when going out for lunch, omitted to inform Miss — that a nurse was in the waiting room.

MISS COX-DAVIES proposed that no letters should be brought up to the Council excepting through the Committee concerned.—No action was taken.

The applications for Registration were then considered *in camera*.

#### ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 5th, the anniversary of the death of Napoleon, the Napoleon Coterie are to hold a meeting at 194, Queen's Gate. It is expected that several very eminent authorities on this great character in European history will speak. The first address will commence at 4.30 p.m., and the speakers will lead up to the hour of six, that at which Napoleon died, when the audience will rise and there will be silence. The meeting is likely to be a very wonderful one and the nurses are cordially invited to attend. Tea will be served before the meeting at a quarter to four.

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