

Emergency Meetings may be called by the President to deal with urgent business notified on the Agenda.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each member shall pay an Annual Subscription of one shilling, payable on the 1st of January, or a composite fee of five shillings for five years. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

Officers and Committee.

A very representative list of Hon. Officers, Official Sectional Delegates, and specially invited members were nominated to form the Executive Committee of the Council, whose names will be announced later, as they consent to act. Many members present consented to act. Councillor Beatrice Kent and Miss Margaret Breay remain President and Hon. Secretary.

The Application Form.

The Application Form was agreed and together with copies of the Constitution will be available at an early date.

Taxation Without Control.

The following Resolution was agreed unanimously and the Hon. Secretary was directed to send a copy of it to the Minister of Health and to the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

"That the members of the Registered Nurses Parliamentary Council very strongly object that Registered Nurses should be compelled to finance the attendance and other expenses of the lay and medical members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, whom they do not elect, especially as these persons have now monopolised so much power on the Standing Committees, to the exclusion of expert nurses, and in some instances have to attend such Committees weekly from long distances, instead of the monthly Council meetings only.

"And as such expenses are a very serious tax upon the limited resources of the Registered Nurses, this Council petitions the Minister of Health to take into consideration, at the earliest possible date, the advisability of the expenses of the nominated lay and medical members of the Council being charged to his Department."

Other questions of great interest to the profession as a whole were informally discussed, and the members present were determined to claim for the Nursing Profession the self-government enjoyed by other professions having legal status, and to oppose by every means in their power any further despotic irregularities upon the part of the lay and medical members of the nominated General Nursing Council, whose unconstitutional conduct of business, and neglect in the supervision of compiling the Nurses' Statutory Register, was indignantly condemned.

It was agreed to hold another meeting at an early date to receive the replies from Registered Nurses nominated as officers and members of the Executive Committee.

MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

NURSES AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

We note that Major Barnett, M.P., has written to the *Nursing Mirror* to correct an erroneous report of the Parliamentary Proceedings of the Committee Stage of the Unemployment Insurance Bill, published in that paper on April 15th.

The following letter appears in the issue of April 22nd:—

"Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., writes from the House of Commons: 'Will you allow me to correct an error which has, I am sure unwittingly, crept into your report of the Parliamentary proceedings in this matter? You describe the proposed new clause, which stood in the names of Captain Elliot, Mr. Hopkins and myself, as 'a counter-amendment' to that of Mr. Lyle. As a matter of fact, our clause to exempt registered nurses and nurse probationers from unemployment insurance was handed in at the Table early on Thursday, March 30th, and officially printed on the following day, while it was only on the Saturday that Mr. Lyle's new clause (subsequently withdrawn) appeared for the first time on the paper. On Monday, April 3rd, just before the Standing Committee met, a second edition of Mr. Lyle's clause was published, which adopted the form of my clause, while extending to all 'female professional nurses' the exemption from unemployment insurance. In moving my clause I expressly stated that, if the Committee thought it too narrow, I was prepared to withdraw it in favour of the wider clause moved by my honourable friend, the Member for Stratford, and this was eventually done. But apart from the difficulty of defining 'professional nurses,' it must be remembered that—even if 'nurses still ineligible for State Registration' are 'often the least well paid'—it was at least open to argument that this class might benefit from Unemployment Insurance, and the Minister of Labour confirmed my statement that 700 nurses are actually in receipt of unemployment benefit at the present time."

It behoves trade nursing journals to be correct and just; as a matter of fact they are neither, and Major Barnett, the vigilant friend in the House of Commons in regard to nurses and their needs, has been constrained to point out the error which he gallantly refers to as having "crept into" the above report.

Major Barnett in his well reasoned letter shows clearly that he is alive not only to the interests of trained nurses, but to the prestige of Registered Nurses, and to the line of demarcation there must be between Registered and Unregistered in the near future.

To commemorate her twenty-eight years' work among the miners of Newton Cap, Bishop Auckland, Nurse Violet Wood has purchased a house in Bridge Street, had it renovated at her own expense, and given it to the Newton Cap Miners' Lodge as an aged miners' home.

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