

The Leaflet.

The leaflet incorporates several important points to which it is most essential that the attention of nurses should be drawn. Principally:

(1) "The Nurses' Registration Act has placed the Nursing Profession on a legal basis, and has given every individual nurse whose name is placed upon the State Register a definite legal status."

(7) "There can be little doubt that in the future the public will draw a very clear line between the nurse who is State-registered and the nurse who is not. To be registered will be the hall-mark of efficiency of a nurse; not to be registered will be taken as a sign of inferiority."

(10) "In December of this year (1922) a new General Nursing Council will be formed, and sixteen of its members will be elected by registered nurses. But only those nurses whose names are on the State Register before October 1st, 1922, will be able to vote for candidates in this election. The G.N.C. is the body which sets the standard of training and controls the professional education of nurses. It is, therefore, highly advisable that there should be a large number of nurses to take part in the election of the Council."

The leaflet was amended, and passed, with the proviso that minor alterations should be drafted by the Registration Committee before it is issued.

No. 4. DR. GOODALL said he had hoped that the Council would be provided with copies of the proposed Regulations for the Election of Direct Representatives, but only a few copies were available.

THE CHAIRMAN said they would be forwarded next day.

No. 6. DR. GOODALL said there was a clear difference of opinion as to the interpretation of paragraph (e) in the First Schedule to the Rules (which deals with the record of qualifications to be inserted in the published Register), and the Committee would like the ruling of the whole Council on the points of difference. The first was upon the dates. Was it intended to insert the dates at which a nurse began and ended her training, or only the date when she obtained the Certificate?

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said she drafted the paragraph in question—it was unanimously agreed to by the Council, and had not been amended by the Ministry—with the intention of securing to nurses the credit for the *term of training*, and consequent *value* of their certificates. The words the "dates of obtaining" such training and certificates should make this clear. If the terminal date only was intended to appear, the word would be in the singular, and all certificates would rank as of equal value. This would not satisfy nurses holding certificates for three and four years' training.

Much discussion ensued, in which Sir Jenner Verrall, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Miss Dowbiggin, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Seymour Yapp, Miss Swiss, Miss Worsley, Miss Cattell, and Miss MacCallum took part. Several proposals were negatived, and it was put from the Chair and carried that the words be interpreted to mean the dates on which a nurse

began and ended her training—the years, not the months, to be recorded.

On the further point on which a decision was asked, *i.e.*, whether, in the case of a hospital which had changed its name, the name entered on the Register should be the present one or that by which the hospital was known when the nurse received her training or experience in it, it was agreed on the proposition of Miss MacCallum to adopt the second course.

No. 7. In connection with the weekly statements showing the progress of registration, forwarded to the Minister of Health, MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK asked that the number of applications in the office still undealt with should be appended to the statement as formerly, and this was agreed.

The Report was then adopted, but consideration of the applications for Registration was deferred and they were discussed in camera at the end of the meeting.

Report of the Finance Committee.

SIR JENNER VERRALL, Chairman of the Finance Committee, then moved that his Report be received. The principal items reported were (1) that a communication had been received from the Minister of Health that he had ascertained from the Inland Revenue, Somerset House, that the income arising on the Council's invested funds would be treated as exempt from income tax. With regard, however, to income arising from fees charged by the Council no such exemption exists, and Income Tax will be chargeable on any balance of profits arising from the fees representing excess of income over expenditure. (2) That the Council's accounts had been audited up to March 31st, 1922, by Mr. Sutherland Wilkinson, Chief Inspector of Audits. (3) That the Chairman of the Council had suggested that it might be well for the Council to authorise some additional members of the Council as signers of cheques, so that if, for any reason, the ordinary signatures were not obtainable, no delay might be caused.

SIR JENNER VERRALL moved the adoption of the Report on behalf of the Committee, but in regard to the third item expressed the opinion that there was a more excellent way and moved that the signature of either the Chairman of the Council or of the Finance Committee, instead of both as at present, should be accepted with that of the Registrar. This was seconded by the HON. MRS. EUSTACE HILLS, but was ruled out of order by the Chairman as contrary to the Rules.

The Report was adopted.

Report of the General Purposes Committee.

THE HON. MRS. EUSTACE HILLS, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, then moved that the Report be received. It consisted mainly of a memorandum on the work of the office, prepared by the Chairman of Council. It also recommended the addition of four workers to the temporary staff.

Discussion.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK pointed out that the Council had now seventeen clerical workers in the

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