

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Twentieth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales (the adjourned January Meeting) was held at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W., on Friday, February 3rd, at 2 p.m., Sir Wilmot Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., in the Chair.

The Minutes of the meeting on November 18th, 1921, were approved and signed.

Correspondence.

Letters of regret at inability to be present were received from Miss Sparshott, Miss Coulton, and Miss Seymour Yapp. Otherwise the whole Council reassembled.

Record of Certificates on Register.

THE CHAIRMAN reported that five letters from various bodies had been received concerning the insertion on the Register of the record of nurses' certificates, enclosing the following Resolutions:—

From the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses.

The following series of Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses on November 29th.

RESOLUTION I.

That this meeting has learnt with the greatest indignation that it has been proposed, by members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, to publish the State Register of Nurses without recording the certificates of proficiency awarded to trained nurses.

This omission would not only be a most serious professional and economic damage to certificated nurses who are admitted to the Register upon the qualification of their certificates, but would mislead the public and the medical profession as to the professional status and efficiency of such nurses.

RESOLUTION II.

That this meeting has learnt with relief that the Minister of Health has communicated to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales the method by which this injustice may be avoided, and it earnestly pleads that the Minister of Health will agree to an addition to the First Schedule in the Rules, to provide for the inclusion of the record of nurses' certificates.

RESOLUTION III.

That a Sub-Committee be appointed to draft a Statement to place the whole case before the Minister of Health, and to explain the serious consequences to the nurses if their certificates are not recorded, in the Qualification Column, upon the State Register, and that the Minister of Health be asked to receive a Deputation from the Central Committee in support of the Statement.

From the Registered Nurses' Society.

The Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society, a Co-operation of Trained and Certificated Nurses who have passed through three years' hospital training, have learnt that a proposal has been made, in the General Nursing Council, to omit the record of the

certificates of proficiency of trained nurses in the Register to be published under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

In the opinion of the Nurses, such action would be most damaging to their professional and economic standing, and the State Register rendered useless to the medical profession and to the public.

This ill-advised proposal has aroused a deep sense of injury and distrust in the minds of the members of this Staff, and in the opinion of this Committee it is of urgent importance that a guarantee should be given that such injury is not contemplated if certificated Nurses avail themselves of the privilege of State Registration.

From the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses.

That this meeting of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses (which comprises over 1,000 certificated nurses) desires to express its conviction (1) that certificates, whenever held, should be recorded upon the State Register of Nurses if the Register is to be of public utility, and of any value to the nursing and medical professions; (2) that it would be detrimental to the professional and economic interests of the nurses to deprive them of the evidence of their proficiency, and that the omission of this record would inevitably alienate the support of numbers of certificated nurses, upon whose co-operation the success of the Register mainly depends.

From the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.

That this meeting of the Council of the Bradford Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, with a membership of 200 certificated nurses, considers it essential to the professional status of the majority of "Existing Nurses" that the word "certificated" be entered on the State Register against the names of nurses holding certificates, and urges that the necessary steps be taken to make this possible.

The Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

A letter received from the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital stated that the Governors "are entirely in sympathy with the views expressed by their nurses."

The Syllabus of Nursing Education.

Letters were received:

(1) From the British Hospitals Association, regretting that although the Syllabus had been adopted by the General Nursing Council, the hospitals, as a whole, have not had an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it.

(2) From the North-Eastern Regional Committee of the British Hospitals Association, stating that a meeting of the Committee held at Darlington was unanimously of opinion that the Syllabus was much too elaborate, that the smaller hospitals could not conform to it, that the hospitals should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it, and that the enforcement of the Syllabus should be deferred for a year.

(3) From the Clerk to the Tynemouth Union, expressing the view of the Conference of representatives of Poor Law Training Schools that, while the Syllabus was ideal, it was impracticable at the present time, and that the Council should modify it; and that, in view of the inevitable delay in the adoption of the Syllabus, the Council

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