

kind-hearted nurses—often at a time when skilled treatment is most needed to restore fully their vigour and health. By means of an "invalid kitchen," the nurses distribute meals and such nourishment as the doctors or they may decide to be necessary, and they provide appliances and comforts to the poor people during their illnesses and convalescence.

Miss Pybus, of 21, Victoria Square, is hon. secretary of the Society, from whom further information can be obtained.

From recent investigations into the conditions of Mental Hospitals, the results of which are related in the pages of *Truth*, it would appear that a widespread opinion prevails that the inquiry into the conditions existing in mental hospitals which was conducted a few months ago at the behest of the lunacy authorities was not as thorough as the circumstances required. In the course of their report the committee which made the inquiry stated:—"We are satisfied that the present provision for the care and treatment of the insane is humane and efficient," and there is no reason for doubting that this encomium is deserved in some, perhaps most, of the institutions in question. But the committee was not appointed to discover whether or not the state of affairs was generally passable or to form an estimate of the average of the conditions in these institutions: the real point of interest is whether every one of the institutions conforms to a reasonable standard, whether the character of the persons in charge is in all cases such as to afford a reasonable guarantee of humanity and efficiency, and whether the system of inspection is sufficiently frequent and thorough to afford a check to laxity or ill-treatment. The public is entitled to insist upon a high standard, universally observed.

*Truth's* investigation leads to some disturbing conclusions, and much more public control, especially over Private Asylums, will have to be enforced before the public conscience is placated.

### SELF-DETERMINATION FOR FEVER NURSES.

A Meeting of Matrons of Infectious Hospitals will be held at the South-Western Fever Hospital, Landor Road, Stockwell, S.W., on Saturday, October 7th, at 3 p.m., with the object of discussing the formation of a Fever Nurses' Section of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council.

We hope soon to hear of Male, Mental, and Sick Children's Nurses meeting to discuss the same method of co-operation.

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The twenty-seventh meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health on Friday, September 22nd, at 2.30 p.m., Sir Wilmot Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the Council, presiding.

### Minutes.

Before the minutes were confirmed, Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK drew attention to the fact that under Item 5, to be in accordance with the First Schedule, the letter "S" must be added to the word "hospital," to read "hospitals and dates."

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Report of the Committee had in one particular been incorrectly minuted. It had been agreed that in order to be eligible for nomination and election on the General Nursing Council a nurse must be registered before October 1st, whereas it appeared that in order to take part in the election a nurse must be registered before October 1st, which was a very different matter.

Also the word "approved" should be inserted at the end of Item 5.

With these amendments, which the Chairman took power to insert, the minutes were confirmed.

### Draft Rule 9B.

THE CHAIRMAN reported that Rule 9B, which had been framed at the last meeting of the Council, had been sent for the consideration of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, and that they strongly objected to it.

[Rule 9 (B) is as follows:—"Notwithstanding anything in the preceding Rules, the Council shall have power to consider any application for registration which shall be referred to it by the Registration Committee as being of an exceptional character, and, if it thinks fit, to approve the applicant for registration."]

### The Form of Register.

THE CHAIRMAN further reported that he had had to make an alteration in the form of the Register approved last time, as it was found that sufficient space had not been allowed for the record of names without frequent division into two or more lines. The alteration had to be made at the expense of the Qualification column.

### Return from Colonial Office.

THE CHAIRMAN also reported that he had now had returns from the Colonial Office of the Colonial Nursing Services. He suggested that there should be a Special Meeting of the Council on October 6th, which should go into committee to receive these returns.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK asked whether the large number of applications for registration still held up could be taken at this meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN thought not, but said he would have something to say on that matter at a later stage of the proceedings. He further announced

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