

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Thirtieth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health on Friday, December 15th, Sir Wilmot P. Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the Council, presiding.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

MISS MACCALLUM here gave notice, as the meetings of the Council were, she said, apt to be closed down rather suddenly, that she had several matters to bring up under "Other Business."

In connection with the Epsom Infirmary, which was referred for enquiry at the last meeting, the Chairman informed Miss MacCallum that no answer had yet been received.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH *re* COMPILATION OF REGISTER.

THE CHAIRMAN reported the receipt of a letter from the Minister of Health informing the Council that on Tuesday, December 5th, he had given public notice that a Register of Nurses had been compiled under the Nurses' Registration Act, and that any person who, not being a person duly registered under that Act, at any time after the expiration of three months from that date, takes or uses the name or title of a Registered Nurse, is liable to the penalties mentioned in sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Act.

LETTER FROM THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

THE CHAIRMAN also reported that an invitation had been received from the Royal Sanitary Institute inviting the Council to appoint representatives to attend the Congress to be held in Hull by the Institute from July 30th to August 4th, 1923.

THE CHAIRMAN asked any member willing to attend to notify him.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH *re* SYLLABUS OF EDUCATION.

MRS. FENWICK enquired if the letter on the General Syllabus addressed to the Council dated November 15th, 1922, from the Minister of Health, and referred to at the last meeting to the Education Committee for report, could be considered, as it was relevant to the recommendations made by that Committee, and had not been commented upon in its report to the Council. Mrs. Fenwick moved that the Council should proceed to consider the communication addressed to it by the Minister.

THE CHAIRMAN said that Mrs. Fenwick would have an opportunity of bringing up the question at a later stage on the Report of the Education Committee.

Statement by Chairman *re* Election of Direct Representatives and of New Council.

THE CHAIRMAN then stated that the members of the Council appointed by the Minister of Health had been re-appointed to the new Council. Also

three of the Direct Representatives—Miss Seymour Yapp (Poor Law Nurses), Miss S. A. Villiers (Fever Nurses), and Mr. Stratton (Male Nurses)—had been returned unopposed.

The Council were aware of the unfortunate occurrence which had led to delay in the Election, and the necessity for a new Election in the case of contested seats. The balloting papers for the General Part of the Register had been put in the envelopes for the nurses on the Supplementary Parts of the Register and therefore there were not sufficient by about a thousand. The place for a number on the balloting paper was also inserted in error.

MISS MACCALLUM said that the prescribed scheme for the Election passed by the Council at its last meeting had no such provision. When was the Scheme approved?

THE CHAIRMAN said it was signed by Sir Arthur Boscawen.

MISS MACCALLUM asked when the Council had agreed that the work should be done by an outside firm.

THE CHAIRMAN said he acted under the Rule giving him power to employ the necessary staff.

MISS MACCALLUM thought that Rule referred to the work of registration.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did not propose to ask the Council's sanction always on such details. He took the responsibility. He agreed to a suggestion made by Miss MacCallum that the balloting papers for the Supplementary Registers should be on paper of different colours—those for the General Register being white.

THE CHAIRMAN said further he did not now know whether the Finance Committee was consulted. He got an estimate for directing the envelopes, the firm employed were Messrs. Smith, Darby & Welsh.

MISS MACCALLUM inquired who were responsible for the cost entailed by the mistakes.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had taken legal advice, and had consulted the Ministry. The results would be laid before him as Chairman.

MISS MACCALLUM deplored the expense of a new election to the nurses, and the waste of the nurses' money. One nurse had told her that she lived for a week on tea and bread-and-butter in order to save the guinea for her registration.

MISS MACCALLUM asked who inserted the place for the number on the balloting paper.

THE CHAIRMAN said it was inserted in error. The printers had an old form and used that form as copy.

MISS MACCALLUM asked who was responsible for passing the proof.

THE CHAIRMAN said he was responsible. He had not noticed the number at the back of the paper.

MISS MACCALLUM also elicited that both written and verbal directions were given to the firm directing the envelopes. She expressed the opinion that the whole of the clerical work should be conducted in the Council's Office.

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