

Election Address of Mr. Robert Donaldson, as follows, and asked for an explanation:—

"First of all, as you are no doubt aware, men who had their training interrupted owing to serving their country in the War, and in consequence could not finish their training prior to 1919, were compelled to pay Two Guineas for Registration, which was a great injustice to many men.

"This should have been foreseen by our representatives on the Council, but not till I took the matter up with them and in the Press was this injustice rectified, so far as it affected Male Nurses. Women Nurses, who were likewise affected and having no one to champion their case, have still to pay two guineas, and I hold they should also be considered."

Mrs. Fenwick asked what this paragraph meant, as no correspondence re remission of fees had been submitted to the Finance Committee or to the Council, she enquired if the Registration Committee had, as usual, dealt with this matter without reference to the Council?

Continuing, Mrs. Fenwick stated that on February 2nd, 1921, the following Rule, recommended by the Registration Committee and proposed by her, was agreed to unanimously:—

"That the fee for Registration for Intermediate Nurses after the term of grace be £2 2s."

"After the term of grace" meant that after July, 1923, the fee should be raised; but when the Book of Rules was in print, the words "after the term of grace" were found to have been omitted. It was not done at the Ministry, as surmised. Who then removed these words from the resolution after they had been unanimously agreed to by the Council?

The omission certainly created a hardship, and, as the result, all Intermediate Nurses were compelled to pay a fee of £2 2s. forthwith, and had been thus penalised during the term of grace which does not expire till July 14th 1923.

The nurses alluded to by Mr. Donaldson were in this category.

The Council had received no communication. Was the statement made by Mr. Donaldson accurate or not?

THE CHAIRMAN said that it was strictly untrue—but the Registration Committee had thought that these men should be mercifully treated. No definite communication had been sent (here the Registrar intervened), and the Chairman stated that the Registrar said she was instructed to reply to Mr. Donaldson, but the purport of the reply was not forthcoming. Dr. Goodall, the Chairman of the Registration Committee, had apparently no recollection of the proceedings.

The meeting, the last of the First Council, then terminated; the recorded proceedings of which prove that the struggle for self-determination for the new Profession of Nursing is likely to be a stiff proposition indeed; and that Registered Nurses of spirit and honour will be required to do their duty in greatly increased numbers if the Rights and Privileges granted to them by Parliament are not to be a dead letter for a generation to come.

MR. DONALDSON PROVES THAT THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE, AS USUAL, IGNORES THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY OF THE COUNCIL.

8, Hinde Street,
Manchester Square,
London, W. 1.
December 18th, 1922.

The Editor, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Regarding my Election Address and your query as to whom I took the matter up with, anent Registration Fees, perhaps the enclosed copy of letter from the Registrar will speak for itself.

Faithfully yours,

R. DONALDSON.

[Copy.]

General Nursing Council for England and Wales,
12, York Gate,
Regent's Park, N.W. 1.
September 30th, 1922.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of September 26th was considered by the Registration Committee yesterday, and I was instructed to inform you that the Committee have decided to recommend to the Council that all those applying for Registration whose training was interrupted owing to their leaving to join H.M. Forces on the outbreak of war, will rank as Existing Nurses.

Will you kindly convey this information to the men who have applied?

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) MARION S. RIDDELL,

The Manager,
Male Nurses' Co-operation, Ltd.,
8, Hinde Street, Manchester Square.

Letter from Mr. F. W. Stratton, Registered Male Nurse.

22, Coopersale Road,
Homerton, E. 9.
December 16th, 1922.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In reference to Mr. Donaldson's address in this week's BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, when speaking of the interrupted training of Male Nurses by war service and the two guineas Registration fee, he claims that it was not until he took the matter up with the General Nursing Council that this injustice was rectified, so far as it affected *Male Nurses*.

I would like to know when Mr. Donaldson took this matter up with the Council?

Early in November, 1921, I wrote to the Council in reference to the breaking of training for war service by Male Nurses and received the enclosed reply.

Since this date the Male Nurses, whose training was interrupted by war service and whose certificate is dated after November, 1919, have been admitted to the Register as Existing Nurses for the fee of one guinea.

Yours very sincerely,

FREDERICK WM. STRATTON,
Registered Male Nurse.

It will be remembered that in November, 1921, the majority of the Council went on strike for ten weeks, and no correspondence on the remission of Male Nurses' fees was brought before the Registration Committee during our term of office. The Registrar wrote to Mr. F. W. Stratton on November 14th, 1921: "Your letter notifying

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