

approved for registration up to the last meeting of the Council in September, will be qualified to vote at the Election, although the names of nurses registered after July 21st, 1922, cannot appear in the printed register. Subsequent names will be embodied in subsequent editions of the register.

III. LETTER FROM MISS M. M. C. HERBERT, DATED JUNE 8TH, WITH REFERENCE TO EXISTING NURSES' APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION UNDER SECT. 3 (2) (c) OF THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1919.

The Council at its meeting on June 16th last, referred this letter, a copy of which is appended, to the Committee for consideration and report. The writer of the letter raises the very important question whether the rules in respect of the professional qualifications for registration, which have been drawn up by the Council and approved by the Minister of Health, are not too rigid. That the rules as originally approved were too inelastic is proved by the fact that they have been twice amended at the recommendation of the Council itself, namely as regards the recognition of a combined three years' training in hospitals for men and women as a qualification for the General Register, and the acceptance of evidence of two years' experience in an approved hospital for infectious diseases as an equivalent to two years' training in such a hospital, as a qualification for the Supplementary part of the Register for fever nurses. Now, from time to time there have come before the Committee cases in which, although the applicant is obviously, according to the records and testimonials submitted, an experienced and trained nurse, yet she had not fulfilled the conditions laid down in the rules, and the Committee has been obliged to inform the Council that the applicant is not eligible for registration. In view, therefore, of the importance of the subject the Committee has again carefully considered the applications of several candidates who have been declared to be ineligible under the rules. The Committee finds that these applications for the most part fall into two classes, (1) a class in which the applicant has been trained in a hospital or hospitals not approved by the Council, but has had exceptional experience afterwards, and (2) a class in which the applicant has not undergone the required length of training in an approved hospital or hospitals, though she has undergone some training, but has had exceptional experience afterwards. It appears to the Committee that in certain of these instances a strong case can be made out against the exclusion of these applicants from the register, when comparison is made between their training and experience and the training and experience of many nurses whose applications have been successful, especially of those trained in small hospitals; and the Committee is of opinion that some step should be taken to deal with the anomalous position in which the applicants in question have been, though quite unintentionally, placed. If the recommendation set out below is approved by the Council and the Minister of Health, such

exceptional cases would be recommended by the Registration Committee to the Council for registration separately and in detail. The proposed rule will apply to all parts of the register for existing nurses only.

The Committee recommends—

(c) That the following new rule be submitted to the Minister of Health for his approval:—

Rule 9 (B): 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.

IV. SCHEME AND RULES FOR THE ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL OF THE DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES.

The scheme for the election has already been approved by the Council. The Committee has received and considered several suggestions which have been made by members of the Council in respect of the rules, and recommends—

(d) That the scheme for the election of direct representatives as approved by the Council on February 17th, 1922, and the rules concerning the conduct of the election submitted herewith, be forwarded to the Minister of Health for his approval.

V. THE PRINTED REGISTER.

The Committee submits specimen pages of the Register which in accordance with the rules must now be printed and published as soon as possible. The Committee has recommended to the Finance Committee that the estimate of Messrs. Butler & Tanner for the printing of the Register be accepted, and understands that the Finance Committee is bringing a recommendation upon the subject before the Council at its meeting to-day. The Committee recommends—

(e) That the specimen pages of the printed Register now submitted be approved.

VI. THE FOLLOWING WEEKLY STATEMENTS SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF REGISTRATION HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH:—

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED.

	General.	Supp.	Total.
Applications received week ending June 17th	.. 208	.. 48	.. 256
Applications received week ending June 24th	.. 219	.. 29	.. 248
Applications received week ending July 1st	.. 276	.. 53	.. 329
Applications received week ending July 8th	.. 307	.. 19	.. 326
Applications received week ending July 15th	.. 271	.. 18	.. 289
	<u>1,281</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>1,448</u>

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