

MR. DONALDSON asked whether the Chairman considered the Minutes correct.

THE CHAIRMAN said to the best of his belief they were correct.

The Minutes were then signed as correct.

Correspondence.

THE CHAIRMAN said that there were two letters on the Agenda which had been circulated. The first was a letter from the College of Nursing.

MISS A. M. BUSHBY enquired whether the letter could not be read.

THE CHAIRMAN said it would be unwise to read it in public before it had been considered by the appropriate Committee.

MISS M. E. SPARSHOTT moved, MISS SEYMOUR YAPP seconded, and it was agreed that the letter be referred to the Registration Committee.

The second letter was one from the General Nursing Council for Scotland referring to the Rules.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the letter merely stated that the Scottish Council agreed to the Rules, and suggested a reciprocity Clause. He suggested that it should be referred to the Education Committee.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP said that on page 2 of the Rules there appeared the words, "Except the names of Registered Fever Nurses," and asked the reason.

THE CHAIRMAN said if Miss Yapp would look at the report she would see that the term of training for Scottish Fever Nurses was three years, for English two; Scotland would not accept this.

MR. F. W. STRATTON asked whether Male Nurses would have reciprocity with Scotland.

THE CHAIRMAN replied he could not say; he had not seen the Scottish Act.

It was then resolved that the letter should be referred to the Education Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN announced a letter from the Minister approving the Rule postponing the Examination from 1924 to 1925. Also a letter from the Ministry of Health (date Feb. 7th) in answer to the Council's letter *re* the Syllabus of Training and Examination.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,

February 7th, 1923.

MADAM,—With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Minister of Health to acquaint you for the information of the General Nursing Council that the Examination Syllabus for the General Part of the Register is under consideration and a further communication will be addressed to the Council in due course. Though it is not so stated in your letter, it is understood that the other Councils have been consulted in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 (3) of the Act; and I am to enquire whether the Syllabus as it stands has been agreed to by the other Councils.

As regards the Training Syllabus, the Minister would be glad if the Council would give further

consideration to the proposal that it should, at any rate for the present, be treated as advisory and that its adoption should not be made a condition of approval of nurse training schools. In addition to the considerations set out in the Department's letter of the 15th November last the Council will appreciate that the adoption of an advisory Syllabus has the advantage of allowing a degree of elasticity which is impossible if it is made obligatory, and its amendment consequently becomes subject to the same procedure required for any other amendment of Rules. An advisory Syllabus can be varied at any time at the discretion of the Council in the light of further experience; and the Council are free to embody in it the ideal which they are seeking to attain. But a compulsory Syllabus must necessarily be limited to such requirements as it is practicable to impose on nurse training schools as they exist at present. If the Training Syllabus is to be made compulsory, the Minister cannot give any undertaking that he will be able to sanction it without modification, since he will be bound to take into consideration the objections which have been made from various quarters; objections which have only been withdrawn on the assumption that the Council had accepted the statement made by their Chairman to the deputation from the Association of Poor Law Unions in October last.

I am to add that the adoption at this stage of an advisory Syllabus would not prejudice the right of the Council to substitute a compulsory Syllabus at a later date, should experience indicate the advisability of such a course.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) L. G. BROCK.

The Registrar,
General Nursing Council.

THE CHAIRMAN said it would be remembered that the recommendation of the Education Committee was that the Training Syllabus should be adopted on the authority of the Council.

MR. F. W. STRATTON enquired whether it would be compulsory for Male Nurses to be trained in accordance with a prescribed Syllabus.

THE CHAIRMAN at first appeared uncertain, but ultimately replied that it would. The Council were now considering the Syllabus of Training for General Nurses; Male Nurses were "something a little different."

It was moved by DR. GOODALL, seconded by the REV. G. B. CRONSHAW, and resolved that the letter from the Ministry of Health should be referred to the Education Committee for consideration and report.

In regard to the Clause *re* the Rules, above mentioned, the CHAIRMAN said that he hoped it would be fully discussed eventually, it was a very important question of principle, but the ground should first be prepared by a Committee.

It was moved by DR. GOODALL, seconded by the REV. G. B. CRONSHAW, and resolved that this should be done.

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