

made concerning 1,505 nurses whose applications for registration were reported on at the last meeting, and who would have been put on the Register but for the fact that the Ministry informed the Council that this would not be in order while an election was proceeding.

DR. GOODALL would move that these 1,505 applicants, whose applications had been found to be in order, should be approved for registration.

THE CHAIRMAN said he was condoning an irregularity for the public good.

DR. GOODALL moved accordingly and the REV. G. B. CRONSHAW seconded, and it was agreed, that the applications be approved, and the Registrar was directed to enter the names in the appropriate parts of the Register.

This was agreed *nem con.*, as was also the proposal that the appropriate certificate be granted to each of the applicants and the Seal of the Council affixed to each Certificate.

A "Few Words" from the Chairman.

SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM (Chairman of the Council), addressing it, in conclusion, said that he wanted it to understand that in every electorate body, which had a great deal to do, the great body of work must be done by Committees, and he hoped that members of Committees would make a point of attending them regularly.

Referring to the question of the widening of the Register, he said that, however much the ground could be prepared by a Committee, it was a question of principle which must be decided by the Council. Every member of the Council should express his or her opinion upon it, and he hoped this would be done.

Then take the various Committees. The Finance Committee had had a bad time. Its work was mostly emergency work, and it had had to feel its way, and do business which had to be done for the first time.

The first issue of the Register would be more expensive than subsequent ones, as would also the first Election. They were, however, practically getting through the emergency work, and by next October would, he thought, be able to form a good idea of what would be needed for the permanent work of the Council.

The work of the Registration Committee was concerned with the question of framing or obeying certain rules.

It had tried to draw up a new Rule for the admission to the Register of exceptional cases, and at their last meeting the Council had tried to draw up such a Rule. They had had a definite case before them since last summer.

This time they thought they were perfectly safe, as they had sent up the Rule framed by Scotland, but the Council would see by the letter of the Ministry that this would not do.

The work would be mostly routine now, but there were the terms of reciprocity with Scotland, and perhaps Ireland, and the Colonies still to be considered. New Zealand was the only Dominion,

so far, with which the Council had a reciprocal agreement.

The Education Committee had the heaviest task of all. First, there was the approval of Training Schools, and in this there would be no slackening as the cases now to be considered would be the exceptional ones.

The work before the Education Committee was the organisation of the whole of the Examinations. They would have to form a panel of Examiners, and to find Examination Halls all over the country in which the Examination could be held simultaneously; they would have to frame the Rules for the Examiners, and decide how to settle the Papers, and how to supervise the Examiners. It would be very heavy work because they did not know anything about it.

Then the Council would feel, as in the case of all Statutory Bodies, that it was set up not for the benefit of a class, but of the public. He hoped they would feel they were not a Trades Union, but were set up for the good of the public, and that they had to work for the benefit of the public by raising the profession of nursing.

For that reason the Minister had appointed—and had rightly appointed—on the Council persons who were not nurses.

The General Nursing Council was comparable with the General Medical Council, but the former was better off because, while the General Medical Council had five direct representatives out of 37 members, the General Nursing Council had 16 direct representatives out of 25 members. The great majority of the members of the General Medical Council were appointed by the Licensing Bodies, which was comparable to appointment on the General Nursing Council by the Training Schools. In that way, therefore, the General Nursing Council was in a more favourable condition than the General Medical Council.

He expressed the hope that the members would make a point of visiting the Offices of the Council and acquainting themselves with the work done there. They had been constantly worried in the Council by people who were quite willing to blame them because they did not understand the work which was going on. For that reason a Report had been obtained on the Office Routine from Messrs. Peat & Co., who suggested some differences in details. He wanted the Council to familiarise themselves with the organisation of the Office, but hoped they would give the Registrar notice, if possible, of their intended visits.

He hoped also they would study the Report of the experts which had been put into their hands, and get some idea of the routine which went on and its magnitude. He had no doubt the Council had not any idea of the immense volume of work. They began with a staff of six, and the volume of work had got so great they now had 27, which would no doubt be diminished in the summer, when the period of grace ended, and they would no longer deal with existing and intermediate nurses.

The meeting then terminated.

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