

POINTS FOR NURSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

Minutes.

Mr. Robert Donaldson and Miss Maud Wiese addressed questions to the Chairman as to whether the Minutes were correct, as there appeared to be an omission on a question raised by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, which Miss Villiers presumed alluded to the question of the fee of £2 2s. required from Intermediate Nurses.

The Chairman said the Minutes were not supposed to be verbatim, and accused the Press of frequent inaccuracy. He continued to explain that the Registration Committee had exercised its discretion to allow Male Nurses, whose training had been broken in the war, and who, therefore, had not completed three years' training and service before November, 1919, to be considered as Existing Nurses. This was the point raised by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

With all due deference to Sir Wilmot Herringham it was not.

Our "point" was an inquiry why the words "after the term of grace" had been omitted from a Resolution unanimously agreed to by the Council on February 2nd, 1921, providing that Intermediate Nurses should pay a fee of £2 2s. for registration after July, 1923, which omission has compelled them to pay the higher fee from the opening of the Register on July 14th, 1921, instead of from July 14th, 1923. To this we received no reply.

Let us consider this matter from the beginning, because one illegality is sure to arouse side issues.

On September 26th, 1922, Mr. Donaldson wrote to the Registrar asking for the remission of certain Male Nurses' fees as Intermediate Nurses, and that they should be classed as Existing Nurses owing to the interruption of their training during the war.

The Registrar, Miss M. S. Riddell, informed Mr. Donaldson on September 30th that his letter had been considered by the Registration Committee, which "had 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." That is pay a fee of £1 1s. instead of £2 2s.

THE ILLEGAL CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

No letter on this matter was ever reported to or placed before the Council. Had it been, no doubt the Council would have sympathised with the proposal; but the Council—much less the Registration Committee—had no legal authority to agree to it, as the Act prescribes the date to which (November, 1919) Existing Nurses, with three years' training and service, can claim to be registered as such for the fee of £1 1s. Thus, had Mr. Donaldson's proposition been acceded to, the Council would have been required to frame a new Rule to meet these conditions.

But what do we find? The Chairman of the Council acknowledges that not only was the Council not consulted at all, but that Dr. E. W. Goodall, Chairman, and the members of the Registration Committee proceeded to act in violation of Section (3) 2 (c) of the Act, defining Existing Nurses as "persons who were for at least three years before the first day of November, nineteen hundred and nineteen, *bona fide* engaged in practice as nurses in attendance on the sick," and recommended to the Council for Registration as Existing Nurses, Male Nurses, who were not eligible—without any explanation whatever—a totally illegal proceeding.

As to Mr. Donaldson's question as to the correctness of the Minutes of December 15th, 1922, they were of course signed as such on February 16th, 1923, without protest from the members who were present on the former date, that the Registrar had suppressed all allusion to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's question, and statement, concerning the tampering with her Resolution of February, 1921, by omitting the all-important words "after the term of grace," which protected the interests of Intermediate Nurses, placing them on the same financial basis as Existing Nurses, so long as the latter were eligible for Registration.

The whole treatment of this matter by the Registrar and Registration Committee has, in our opinion, been grossly irregular and illegal, and we invite Sir Wilmot Herringham to specify in which particular the Press, so far as THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING is concerned, is inaccurate in this particular. Its columns are open to him to disprove, if he can, its published statements. Indeed, in defence of its professional representative, whose reports of the meetings of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales are a model not only of accuracy, but of style, we defy him to do so.

E. G. F.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Stockton and Thornaby Hospital.—Miss Gladys B. Martin has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Thomas Hospital, London, and was subsequently appointed Ward Sister at Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common. In March, 1916, she joined Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service Reserve as Sister-in-Charge of Wards at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth. In March, 1917, she served on the Hospital ship *Rewa* until it was torpedoed and sunk in January, 1918, when she was re-appointed to the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth. In January, 1919, she was appointed Matron of the Londonderry City and County Infirmary, which position she held until October of last year.

ASSISTANT-MATRON.

Springfield Mental Hospital, Springfield.—Miss Edith Catherine King has been appointed Assistant Matron at Springfield Mental Hospital. She was trained for three years at the Plaistow Fever Hospital, and obtained the Certificate of the Fever Nurses' Association. She then obtained a Three Years' Certificate in General Training at Guy's Hospital, where she also received her Midwifery Training, obtaining the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board. She then

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