

was the first duty of the Committee, and in accordance with her fixed principle she proposed that Mr. Donaldson (a Registered Mental Nurse) should take the chair. She had made enquiries (she hoped Mr. Donaldson would forgive her), and was satisfied that his knowledge of finance qualified him for the position. She accordingly proposed that he be elected Chairman. The voting was significant. Three trained nurses voted for the trained nurse as Chairman, one trained nurse and two lay members voted for the medical man. The medical man was elected to the Chair by the casting vote of the Chairman of the Council who was present *ex-officio*.

She had not the pleasure of knowing SIR JENNER VERRALL, and there was nothing personal in her proposal, but she strongly felt that there should be a Registered Nurse in the Chair, more especially as the Committee was concerned with the administration of funds provided solely by Registered Nurses.

MISS WIESE seconded Miss du Sautoy's amendment that the Report be not received, which was lost.

On Item III, SIR JENNER VERRALL reminded the Council that it was taxed on receipts as income. The future income was exceedingly doubtful, and it ought to economise as far as was reasonably possible. He thought £5,000 could be spared for investment.

On Item X, SIR JENNER VERRALL discussed the pros and cons of printing the Minutes. It would be at least four times as expensive to print as to type them. Printing would cost about £8 or £10 a meeting, whereas typing at present cost about £2. The Agenda was the first copy of the Minutes, which were recorded in that form with slight alterations.

THE REV. G. B. CRONSHAW supported the proposal. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was approved, and it was decided that 100 copies of the minutes of the Council's meetings should be printed.

The Report was then approved.

Report of the Registration Committee.

DR. GOODALL, Chairman of the Registration Committee moved that the Report be received.

The Committee reported that on Thursday, December 21st, a special meeting of the Registration Committee was held to receive a Deputation from the Prison Officers' Representative Board. The Members of the Registration Committee were: Dr. Goodall (in the chair), Sir Wilmot Herringham, Miss Cox Davies. The Members of the Deputation were: Dr. Griffiths, Medical Inspector of Prisons, Dr. C. N. Slaney, Medical Inspector of H.M. Prison, Parkhurst, Dr. H. H. Morton, Governor M.O., H.M. Prison, Holloway, Mr. R. H. Scholes, Secretary Prison Officers' Representative Board, Miss D. Laws, Holloway Prison, Mr. White, Mr. Wheeler, Parkhurst Prison, Mr. W. H. Waddams, Prison Commission.

In the absence of Dr. Dyer, Medical Commissioner of Prisons, Dr. Griffiths stated the claim for the registration of certain male and female nurses who had been nursing in Prison Infirmaries before 1919.

In the course of the discussion the Deputation

were informed that in no single instance where a prison nurse, male or female, had applied for registration had the applicant brought forward any evidence of training (apart from male nurses trained in military or naval hospitals and from Mental Nurses) that the Council could not recognise a Prison Hospital as an approved Hospital without definite evidence as to the exact amount of training that was given in the hospital and the character of the diseases treated in it, that women trained only in the Prison Hospitals for sick female prisoners would not be eligible for registration on the General Register under the Council's present rules, for, so far, the Council had not recognised training in special hospitals as a qualification for the General Register, that, as regards the future the Council were about to issue a scheme whereby special and small hospitals might combine to give a training, and it would probably be necessary for the Prison Authorities to comply with the Scheme if they intended to train their nurses for the State examination.

Item III in the Report, dealt with the question of the admission of "Bona fide" nurses to Registration, in which connection the Committee presented two letters, one from the Ministry of Health, dated February 7th, and one from the College of Nursing, Ltd., dated December 29th, 1922, referred (unread) to the Committee for consideration and report, by the Council at its meeting on February 16th last.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

7th February, 1923.

MADAM,—With reference to your letter of the 18th December last submitting for approval draft Rule 9 C, I am directed by the Minister of Health to request that you will bring the following observations to the notice of the General Nursing Council. The Minister understands that the immediate difficulty which led the late Council to adopt this rule was that they did not feel it competent to them to approve under Rule 9 (1) (b) certain hospitals, which, though not general hospitals in the strict sense, had in fact in the opinion of the Council a sufficient range of cases to provide training adequate to justify the admission of their nurses to the general part of the Register as existing nurses. On this point the Minister is advised that there is ground for holding that the omission of the qualifying term "general" before the words "hospital" or "infirmary" in paragraph (b) leaves the Council a discretion to approve for the purposes of this part of the rule institutions other than general hospitals in the full sense of that term. Paragraph (b) sets out the minimum qualification for the admission of an existing nurse and it would not be unreasonable to accept for this purpose a wider range of hospitals than could properly be accepted in the case of nurses who were to be entered in the Register as "certificated," and whose title to registration rested on the possession of a certificate of the full three years' training. But the construction of paragraph (b) admits of doubt, and the Minister suggests that the proper way of meeting this particular difficulty would be to adopt a proviso to paragraph (b) in the following sense:—

"Provided that the Council may approve for the purposes of this part of this rule any hospital, not

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)