

## NEPOTISM IN THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

We wish specially to draw the attention of our readers to an advertisement which appears in this week's issue from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, for an Officer to arrange the State Examinations. Salary £350, rising to £400, and travelling expenses. The post is open to both sexes, and had not the following sentence been inserted, "Preference will be given to a Registered Nurse" (not without a difference of opinion), we believe it is very probable that another prearranged job on all fours with the Finch scandal might have been perpetrated, and no one any the wiser. It is an open secret that a College autocrat had an *unprofessional candidate* quite ready for office to the tune of seven to eight hundred a year, which the post is calculated to cost the Registered Nurses.

Whether such an Officer is necessary or not twelve months before the Voluntary State Examination is held, is very doubtful (the compulsory examination is still two years distant); but one thing is very certain, and that is that if a lay man or woman, with no possible knowledge whatever of Nursing Education, is thrust upon us, and another sinecure is made at our expense for another College protégé, the outrage will be resisted and exposed with the widest publicity possible.

Many able Matrons and Teachers of Nursing have of late years taken a very active part in the examination of Probationers outside their own institutions, and are quite able (as our head officials at the G.N.C. office should be) to organise in conjunction with local hospitals and authorities, what is necessary to meet the needs of the examiners and pupils in each centre.

To one of these ladies the post of Examination Officer is due, and we hope that suitable and experienced candidates will apply for it. If there is not one Registered Nurse qualified for this bit of professional work our profession is in a parlous state indeed, and the sooner it ceases to claim to be a profession the better. As it is, had not a medical dictatorship been established in our Governing Body, owing to the deplorable lack of self-respect of the College clique, there would never have been this surreptitious attempt to make a place for some needy unprofessional outsider with friends at court. "The truth is," a plain-spoken nurse remarked to us recently, "the G.N.C. is a nice fat pigeon to pluck and the 'antis' are after its feathers."

### MISS FINCH'S APPOINTMENT *ULTRA VIRES*.

Presumably some explanation will be forthcoming at the meeting of the General Nursing Council, on April 20th, of the methods employed by its officials to fill the new post of "Interviewing Officer," an explanation which will make clear why the Council's directions to the General Purposes Committee have been contemptuously ignored, and quite illegally the post, carrying a salary of £5 a week, has been bestowed upon a

close personal friend of the Registrar and Miss Cox-Davies (the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee), who already enjoys a pension of £250 a year from a charitable institution.

In our opinion the whole proceeding of this appointment is *ultra vires*, and we hope, as the expenditure of public money is concerned, that the Council will, as is customary in such Statutory Bodies, direct that the post of Interviewing Officer shall be advertised, and an opportunity be given to suitable candidates to apply. Moreover, to prevent discreditable jobs being perpetrated in its name, we consider that the General Nursing Council owes it to the Nursing Profession to appoint its own officials in the future, as it did in the past.

## NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH, 1923.

### BELLAHOUSTON HOSPITAL, GLASGOW (NURSES).

MR. McENTEE asked the Minister of Pensions whether he is aware that at the Bellahouston Pensions Hospital, Glasgow, the nurses on night duty do twelve hours' duty each night with only half-an-hour break for meals, and that at the end of their night-duty turn, sometimes extended to two months at the discretion of the Matron, they get two nights off only; and whether he will give instructions at this hospital that nurses shall have the same rest-time as at other hospitals coming under the Regulations of his Department?

MAJOR TRYON: I am making inquiries made into this matter, and will communicate with the hon. Member as soon as possible.

### POOR LAW INFIRMARIES.

MR. HAYDAY asked the Minister of Health what is the average number of patients in Poor Law infirmaries in this country; what is the average number of children boarded out and in children's homes; what is the actual number of Poor Law infirmaries visited by women inspectors last year as distinct from the number of visits paid; whether any Poor Law infirmaries were inspected by male inspectors; what are the qualifications required for the post of superintending woman inspector; and what is her basic salary?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: I regret that I am unable to state the average numbers asked for in the first two parts of this question, but on January 1st last there were approximately 84,000 patients in infirmaries, and in the sick-wards of other Poor Law institutions there were 9,800 children boarded out and 32,000 children in Poor Law institutions provided wholly for the reception and maintenance of children. Two hundred and six infirmaries were visited by women inspectors last year, and the infirmaries are also inspected by the male general inspectors and by medical officers of my Department. The superintending woman inspector is selected from the women inspectors who are required to be fully trained nurses. Her basic salary is £400 to £450.

### THE LABOUR PARTY AND NURSING.

Many members of the Labour Party are studying Nursing conditions, and are coming to the conclusion that they must be placed on a more satisfactory basis, and that a standardised system of education is the only foundation for reforms.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)