

# Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

**THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.**

## MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The Quarterly Meeting of the General Council was held on April 26th, Dr. Percival White in the Chair.

### The Royal Marriage.

Arising out of the Minutes, the following letter to H.R.H. the Princess Christian was read in reply to one forwarded by Her Royal Highness on behalf of the Council when the engagement of H.R.H. the Duke of York to the Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was announced.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE,

January 31st, 1923.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—I am desired by the Duke of York to ask you, as President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to convey, on behalf of the Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and himself, His Royal Highness's very sincere thanks to the Members of that Association for the resolution of congratulation on his engagement, which they have been so kind as to pass.

I am,

Your Royal Highness's  
Obedient Servant,

LOUIS GREIG, *Comptroller.*

### Opposition to the Depreciation of the General Part of the Register.

Also arising out of the Minutes the following letter was read as having been sent in accordance with an instruction of the Council that a communication be addressed to the Minister of Health begging him to refrain from appending his signature to Rule 21 (3) (D) as approved by the majority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on December 22nd, 1922.

To the Right Honourable  
the Minister of Health.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION,  
194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

February 8th, 1923.

SIR,—I am desired by my Executive Committee to thank you for your promise to consider representations from this Association with regard to Rule 21 (3) (D), which was passed at a Meeting of the General Nursing Council on December 22nd, 1922, and submitted for your approval. My

Council earnestly hopes that this Rule will not receive the seal of your approval for the following reasons:—

A. Already the minimum standard of training required by a nurse to gain admission to the Register is a very low one and to reduce this standard still further would prove prejudicial to the interests both of the public and of the nurses.

B. The Rule, as drafted, is calculated to create a grave injustice to those nurses who have already placed their names upon the Register on the understanding that there will be admitted to Registration only such nurses as have had at least one year's training in a general hospital recognised by the Council, and two years' subsequent practice in nursing. Many nurses have joined the Register under protest because they regard this standard as too low, and they will certainly feel that they are being treated unjustly if the Rule, passed by the Council in December, receives the approval of the Minister of Health.

C. There is no provision whatever in the Rule, as drafted, to prevent the admission of specialists and Members of Voluntary Aid Detachments from gaining admission to the Register and thus being placed upon the same platform by the State as those who have spent years in gaining knowledge of General Nursing in all its branches.

D. Although the Rule is calculated to admit to the Register many nurses with a very low standard of training, it is likely that it will decrease the number of those who apply for Registration, because many highly-trained nurses will refuse to register under a Rule which does away with any definite standard as the minimum qualification recognised for admission to the State Register.

E. The Rule might very easily be so amended as to provide against cases of hardship to certain General nurses whose qualification is not in conformity with existing Rules, and this without hardship to those who have joined under the present Rules, and without risk of minimising the value of the Register to the public.

For these and other reasons the Council of the Association respectfully urge that you will withhold your approval from the Rule as drafted.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
*Secretary.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)