

## REMARKS.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

In connection with the letter from the Ministry of Health, published in our last issue, we are glad to note that the Minister of Health immediately fulfilled his pledge given to Major Barnett in the House of Commons on March 14th, that he would request the General Nursing Council to consider his Amendments to the proposed Election Schedule and has requested the Council to give this matter their consideration and to inform him of their conclusions in due course. We hope that Nurses on the General Register who desire a free vote for their representatives will make their wishes on the subject known.

## FINANCE.

The Independent Candidates on the General Nursing Council have fair representation on the Finance Committee, and we believe we owe to these members the recommendation approved by the Council that some £5,000 to £7,000 lying on deposit at Hambro's Bank, Ltd., for which the low Bank Rate of interest is paid, be transferred to the London Joint City and Midland Bank, which alone is to be used in future.

This is the more satisfactory, because Hambro's Bank is largely a foreign affair, and the Nurses' Council should bank with a public British Bank.

We note, with pleasure, that the valuable services of Miss Parsloe, the Assistant Registrar for the last three years, are to be recognised by the increase of her salary from £300 to £400 per annum. It will be remembered that Miss Parsloe performed the duties of the Registrar not only during her holiday in the summer, but also in the autumn when that official had ten weeks' sick leave on full pay, *i.e.*, upwards of £10 10s. a week, for which no recompense was offered by the Council to Miss Parsloe.

We note that the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, assented to by the Finance Committee, that the combined fee for the Preliminary and Final Examinations conducted by the Council should be £5 5s., was referred back—the conjoint fee of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics for its examination in these subjects, which is £6 6s. if they are taken separately, and half that charged by the University of Leeds for its Nursing Diploma.

No doubt nurses desire that the fees fixed for these examinations shall be on a scale which will not admit of extravagant administration, for they have been scandalised at the amount expended on administration in connection with the publication of the First Register, but they will realise that to conduct a State Examination in Nursing all over the country is a costly matter, and we feel sure that they will not grudge a fee of £5 5s. for two examinations through which they obtain legal status and professional rank, provided they are satisfied that their business is conducted with wisdom and thrift, and that for the future sinecure posts are not created for privileged persons at a salary out of proportion to the work demanded.

## REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

The Rules for Reciprocal Registration between the Councils of Scotland and Northern Ireland with that of England and Wales should be in identical terms. At present the English Council recognises Existing Nurses trained in Scotland on exactly the same terms as those trained in England and Wales, whether they intend to work at home or abroad, whereas the Scottish Rules exclude English and Welsh Nurses, unless they have had part of their training in Scotland or intend to practise in that country.

With regard to the 5,000 nurses and upwards who have applied for Registration, many of whom have been kept waiting for months by the Registrar and Registration Committee, it is high time that this deprivation of professional status should be seriously considered by the Ministry of Health. With a staff of thirty clerical workers at Headquarters, it is perfectly scandalous that the chief provision of the Nurses' Registration Act should be so mal-administered by Dr. Goodall, and the Committee of which he is Chairman.

## MENTAL NURSING COMMITTEE.

We gather from Recommendation 16 that the Council does not propose to deprive Mental Nurses of the right granted them by Parliament of the "prescribed scheme" of training, as in the case of nurses to be registered on the General Part of the Register.

## RETENTION FEE.

Recommendation 17 of the Special Committee makes it perfectly clear that a Retention Fee will be charged to have a name retained on the Register for the following year. Thus all nurses whose names will appear on the Register for 1923 (which is already four months late) must have paid the Retention Fee of 2s. 6d. by September 30th, 1922, and by September 30th, 1923, if their names are to appear in the 1924 Register.

## ILLEGAL CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

We alluded last week to the illegal conduct of business in the appointment of Miss Dora Finch as Interviewing Officer, and expressed our approval of the conduct of the Chairman of the Council in insisting upon the directions of the Council being carried out in regard to the appointment of this officer being made by the General Purposes Committee.

From the discussion it is evident that the College Matrons on the Council, including the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, were quite prepared to condone the illegality.

Miss Alsop took exception to the statement that the lady appointed was a friend of the Registrar. Why take exception to facts? Miss Riddell and Miss Finch have been close personal friends, together with Miss Cox-Davies, ever since the former was Assistant Matron at University College Hospital, and as this is the second instance of the appointment of a close personal friend of the Registrar being provided with a highly paid—and

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