

VI. REPORTED—That estimates are being obtained for a woven badge for the hat band and storm cap.

Discussion.

Miss MUSSON said there was a very strong feeling on the part of the nurses with General Training that the uniform for the nurses on the General Part and the Supplementary Parts of the Register ought not to be the same. She thought there would be very great indignation if this were enforced. Moreover, the anomalous position would be created that a junior probationer who had had special hospital training, and was on one of the Supplementary Registers would have the right to wear it, while a senior probationer in the same ward would not. She thought it should be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

MR. DONALDSON protested against its being referred back. There should be no distinction.

Miss SEYMOUR YAPP thought every branch should be accepted at its proper value and a nurse on a Supplementary Register should have a right to wear the uniform.

Miss COX-DAVIES expressed the opinion that in view of what had been done about the *bona fides*, in the House of Commons the uniform would not be popular with trained nurses.

Miss VILLIERS said that Registered Nurses felt very strongly on the subject of the uniform. She urged the Council to pass the recommendation if possible, so that the Committee could get on with something.

On being put to the vote, 20 voted for the Recommendation, and one (Miss Musson) against.

On *Recommendation 21*, Miss VILLIERS said that the objection had been raised that nurses ought to be allowed to wear the Badge at any time. If the Recommendation to rescind were carried, the Committee were prepared to submit a recommendation as to when and how the Badge should be worn to a subsequent meeting.

MR. DONALDSON said the Rule prohibiting the wearing of the Badge except with an authorised uniform could not be enforced, and it seemed best therefore to leave it to the good taste of the Registered Nurses not to wear it unsuitably.

On *Recommendation 22*, Miss MUSSON asked whether the Badge remained the property of the Nurse.

THE CHAIRMAN said the Council had not taken any power to get it back, but a person who wore it unlawfully could be proceeded against.

As a matter of urgency, the Chairman permitted Miss COWLIN to move that the Uniform Committee be permitted to register the design of the hat when approved.

The Report was approved.

The Council then went into *camera*.

We hope to publish the remaining Reports of Committees (Education and Examination, Mental and General Purposes) in our next issue.

AN INDEFENSIBLE APPOINTMENT.

We have received the following official announcement from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

"At a meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, held on June 15th, 1923, Miss Elsie Mackirdy was appointed Examinations Officer. Miss Mackirdy was educated at the Blackheath High School for Girls, and subsequently took a course of training for secretarial work at Kensington College. She has had nearly fourteen years' experience of secretarial work. Her first appointment was as clerk on the staff of the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company for fourteen months. In November, 1913, she was appointed Assistant Secretary to the Governors of the Royal Holloway College, where she had experience in the arrangements for the Annual Scholarship Examination. She is at present First Division Clerk in the Department of the University Extension Registrar, University of London, which post she has held since January, 1918. Miss Mackirdy's duties are mainly in connection with School Examinations conducted by the University and she assists in all branches of the administration work entailed in the organisation of an examination which is taken by over 10,000 candidates at about 300 centres."

This appointment carries with it a salary of £375 per annum, and travelling expenses. We Registered Nurses may, therefore, look forward to paying some £700 a year for the services of a young clerical worker who never having spent a day in a Nurse Training School in her life is necessarily entirely ignorant of the scientific basis of Nursing Education and Examinations, and would inevitably be plucked if she submitted herself to the professional tests she will be required to supervise! We warned the Profession on June 2nd that an unprofessional applicant, a protégée of Sir E. Cooper Perry, Hon. Sec., College of Nursing, Ltd., would probably secure this professional "plum" over the heads of numerous highly-qualified matrons who had applied for it, and who possessed the knowledge necessary to adequately fill the position. The General Nursing Council perpetrated this injustice *in camera* at its recent meeting on June 15th, and thereby prevented the Profession knowing which of its members voted for, and which against, this latest insult to Registered Nurses.

Injury, moreover, is added to insult so far as the Assistant Registrar, Miss Parsloe, is concerned, to whom the odious duty of "covering" Miss Elsie Mackirdy has been assigned. To Miss Parsloe has been entrusted the supervision of this lay official, who is to be paid a higher salary by £75 than Miss Parsloe, a Registered Nurse and former Matron—after three years' arduous work!

What do Registered Nurses, who are compelled to finance this job, think of this latest evidence of disloyalty to professional ideals? Is it really a fact that amongst the boasted 22,000 nurse

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