

Nursing Education, but that they have done more to stultify encouragement to well-educated women adopting Trained Nursing as a profession, than any other action upon their part could have done.

As a thoughtful probationer remarked to us recently, "it proves the contempt in which the medical element in the G.N.C. holds our work, and the danger of placing us entirely under the control of a medical autocracy." If the Report of the Education Committee presented on July 20th to the G.N.C. be studied, on page 69, August 4th, of this Journal, our readers will find that the inevitable has happened, and probationers in Mental, Fever, and Children's Training Schools have now been deprived of a "prescribed" scheme of training, and their managers supplied with an "advisory" scheme, which they are under no obligation to enforce. Down topples the whole fine structure of the Syllabuses of Training which the Nurses' Registration Act provides SHALL be "prescribed," and which the First Council so conscientiously compiled.

We wonder whether the thousands of probationers in training will tamely submit to this most injurious and, for them, dangerous, policy upon the part of the jealous and ignorant majority now maladministrating their professional education.

Report of the Mental Nursing Committee.

We congratulate Miss Wiese, the Independent Mental Nurse, on her protest in Council on the scrapping of the Mental Nurses' Syllabus. As she pointed out, mental nurse probationers would be compelled to pay Examination Fees for a State Examination, and only by failing to pass it would it become known that their teaching had been defective.

Dr. Goodall's remark "that institutions could not be forced to give training if they did not wish to do so" was not the truth. Dr. Goodall is well aware that no hospital, general or special, not recognised by the Council as a training school, would be able to secure probationers, or carry on for a day. Thus, if the Council had done its duty and only recognised as Training Schools hospitals which had adopted the "prescribed" Syllabus of Training, all such institutions could have been forced (and comparatively few are in opposition) to give "prescribed" training and deal justly with their probationers.

Miss Seymour Yapp elicited the information that all Training Schools for Mental Nursing did not train to the standard of the Medico-Psychological Association.

Miss Cox-Davies made the astounding statement that "one of the objects of the State Examination was that it should be known by the result whether probationers were being properly trained or not." Thus, by such an arrangement, young women are to be received into institutions under the impression that they will be efficiently prepared for a State Examination, to give three years' most strenuous physical and mental work for the benefit of such institutions, pay £6 6s. (at least) in fees, and then find themselves plucked, dis-

qualified for registration, and ruined, to test the inefficiency of an "approved" training school. And this sacrifice of the innocents is to be exacted because the majority of the present G.N.C. have in their miserable futility failed in their duty in this connection, to future nurses and the public. We have seldom read a more damaging statement. We specially invite would-be nurses to note and remember it, and to unite to make such gross injustice impossible.

Report of the General Purposes Committee.

The Walrus and the Carpenter, had they lived in these days, need not have wasted their tears on "sand"! They, like the Registered Nurses who have to pay the score, might have "wept like anything" to see the "quantity of clerks"—increased month by month—to struggle with the apparently insurmountable difficulty of producing the State Register. Here we are in August, 1923, and nurses registered since July, 1922, have been awaiting the publication of their names in the 1922 Register, due as soon as possible after January 1st, 1923—the issue of which is already seven months overdue, and for which thousands of nurses have not only paid their Registration, but their Retention Fee! How about "Seven Maids with Seven Mops"? Might we respectfully suggest that, at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee, the appointment of these apparently very necessary officials should be considered?

We note Miss du Sautoy had the courage to point out the very real grievance of paying the Registration Clerk, with a subordinate staff of twenty clerks, whose highly expert work of compiling the State Register is of paramount importance to the profession, a salary of £250 annually, in comparison with the salary of £375 granted to the new Examinations' Officer, who has no professional knowledge or nursing qualification. Of course Dr. Goodall could not appreciate the depreciation to professional nursing prestige and its economic values of such a proceeding! Nor apparently, as Chairman of the Registration Committee, did he appear to remember that his department has unjustifiable arrears with at least 15,000 applications unconsidered! Of course, Miss du Sautoy's motion, seconded by Miss Seymour Yapp, that the salary under discussion should be raised to £350 per annum, was lost.

Nurses who finance the whole work of the G.N.C. should ponder on the principle underlying these two salaries, as apportioned by their Governing Body. If you are a highly qualified Registered Nurse, in addition to having a clerical qualification, you are worth £4 16s. 2d. a week, in the scheme of nursing organisation; but if you have failed to qualify as a professional nurse, in addition to your clerical experience, then you are worth £7 4s. 3d. a week! Surely this pans out that professional nursing knowledge is a disqualification where remuneration is concerned, in the G.N.C. Office. Can this economic aspect have anything to do with the very serious shortage of reasoning women as probationers? And if not, why not?

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