

for registration, and of the General Nursing Council for approving the recommendation, to place on the general Part of the Register a person who had—if prosecuted for the misdemeanour under the Midwives' Act—laid herself open to imprisonment with hard labour, and who had been refused admission to examination as a means to registration by that Body, and to demand that such registration by the General Nursing Council shall be cancelled.

Illegal Conduct of the Registrar.

To protest against the illegal conduct of the Registrar, on more than one occasion, in obstructing nurse members of the Council—her superior officers—in the performance of their public duty, when claiming their right under Rule 49 to inspect documents, and further, on a recent occasion, threatening such a nurse member, as reported by her in a letter sent to the Chairman of the Council—a copy of which was published by request in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING on September 15th, 1923—for which grave offence and breach of discipline neither the Chairman nor the Registrar had offered any apology.

The Badge.

A specimen of the "State" Badge for Registered Nurses was handed round. The President observed that it looked as if it had come out of a Christmas cracker! General disappointment was expressed at such an ineffective and commonplace little Badge having been adopted by the Council for Registered Nurses. Compared with the beautiful cross and bar of the badge of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and the artistic and beautiful badge of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the G.N.C. badge was considered beneath contempt. Moreover, the inscription on its face, "General Nursing Council for England and Wales," was considered entirely out of order, and calculated to lead to confusion by wearers who were not members of that Statutory Body. Registered Nurses were granted a Badge by Act of Parliament, and not by the General Nursing Council, which was merely the body authorised by Parliament to make provision for a uniform and badge for Registered Nurses. It was agreed to call attention to the inscription on the Badge, which did not, as it should do, make it apparent that the wearer was a "State Registered Nurse."

Serious Arrears of the Council's Business.

Many complaints had been addressed to members of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council of the huge expenditure and arrears of business at Headquarters by the G.N.C. At least 14,000 applications awaited consideration, the inspection of which was the special duty of the Registrar under the Cox-Davies Instruction (February 17th, 1922). Of the nine months' delay in the publication of the Register, to contain the names of nurses registered up to December, 1922. The demand for Retention Fees, before the Rules had been complied with, and a nurse's name had appeared in a published Register. The months of delay in

receiving replies to communications to the Registrar, and the serious injury to professional persons and waste of money, by the general lack of effective organisation of the Council's business.

The meeting then terminated.

The members of the R.N.P.C. appeared to have returned from their holidays full of life and spirits, and determined not to submit to professional suppression without a struggle. It was recognised that it was useless to appeal to the General Nursing Council with any hope of redress, and it was therefore agreed to carry their demands to higher authority.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL MEETING.

(September 21st.)

POINTS FOR NURSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The letter announcing that the Minister of Health has under consideration the appointment of a Departmental Committee to consider the training of nurses in Poor Law Establishments is of considerable importance not only in the interests of the Nursing Profession, but especially of the sick. While the majority of the large Poor Law infirmaries afford an adequate training to probationers, many of the smaller ones have neither the material upon which to train adequately, nor the necessary teachers. It is precisely these institutions which are tending to become a drag on the standard of nursing education as a whole. We hope that Miss Alsop, who was appointed, in response to an invitation from the Minister of Health to the Council to appoint one of its members to serve on the Committee, will be prepared with practical suggestions, as the present shortage of probationers in Poor Law Hospitals, is a serious menace to the sick poor.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We notice that the stamp bill has gone up to £35, and that the bill for Insurance Stamps is still £20 a month. Considering that the salaries of so many of the employees of the Council are above the Insurance limit, the figure appears to us to need explanation, and Registered Nurses have a right to know why they are compelled to pay this huge amount.

The Committee reported that it decided to invest the sum of £4,000 and recommended that this action be approved. Having regard to the importance of such financial transactions we consider that it should "recommend to the Council" that money be invested, and should place before it the nature of the investments proposed. So far as we are aware the Council has never delegated its responsibility in this connection to the Finance Committee, and we are of opinion that the Committee has no right to assume it and would be well advised not to do so.

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