

## REPORT OF REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

From the Report of the Registration Committee it appears that from August 11th to September 8th inclusive the Applications for Registration received were just under 54 a week, and doubtless the average was no higher up to September 21st (the date of the Council meeting); yet Dr. Goodall, Chairman of the Registration Committee, reported that 14,055 Applications were still incomplete. On July 14th (as reported at the last Council meeting) the arrears were 15,086; thus, in nine weeks, the Registrar has only overtaken 1,031 applications, in a slack time, when there were few Committees and no meetings of the Council. At that rate it will take her over two years and four months to deal with the present arrears, in spite of the huge number of clerks employed.

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION COMMITTEE.

As reported in our issue of September 29th (page 201) when Miss LLOYD-STILL, Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee proposed that the Syllabus of Subjects for Examination for Sick Children's Nurses be approved, and forwarded to the Minister of Health for his signature, Miss A. M. Bushby, Direct Representative of the Sick Children's Nurses on the Council, protested against a Compulsory Syllabus of Examination being substituted for a Compulsory Syllabus of Training, which was theirs by right, as provided for in the Nurses' Registration Act. Not only the Children's Nurses, but all Registered Nurses are indebted to Miss Bushby that she did not permit this injustice to be approved without a protest. It is to be regretted that the representatives on the Council of the Nurses on the other Sectional Registers did not similarly rise and protest in the names of their constituents.

The Chairman's excuse that the Council had had to yield to *force majeure* was futile and disingenuous. Had the Council consistently and courageously insisted upon the right of nurses in training to a Prescribed Syllabus of Training, in accordance with Section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act, no Health Minister would have ventured to oppose it, and the Council would not have been in the indefensible and contemptible position it is in at the present time.

## REGULATIONS SUBMITTED BY EXAMINATIONS OFFICER.

The Regulations for the conduct of the Examinations and the various forms in connection therewith, submitted by the Examinations Officer, was presented by Miss LLOYD-STILL.

The futility and inadequacy of her scheme may be estimated from the fact that in the Preliminary Examination she made no provision whatever for any question on the Principles and Practice of Nursing in the written paper, but merely for questions on Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene, in which three subjects she made no provision for an oral examination.

The REV. G. B. CRONSHAW questioned the

adequacy of a three hours' paper in these subjects. DR. BEDFORD PIERCE asserted that the Examination would be distinctly inferior to that to which mental nurses had been accustomed for the past twenty years. SIR JENNER VERRALL said the Council was running the risk of its being discovered that they were going to depreciate the examinations of nurses; it was not fair treatment of the examinee and was a very serious matter. MISS COWLIN pointed out the necessity for a written examination in the first principles of nursing, and Miss MUSSON thought that not only should there be an oral and practical examination in the practice of nursing, but an oral examination in the other subjects (*i.e.*, Elementary Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene). We do not wonder that the Chairman had Regulation C 6 in connection with the Examinations referred back to the Education and Examination Committee for further elucidation.

The Regulation runs:—

"Any representation which candidates may desire to make on the subject of their Examination must be made to the Registrar and not to the Examiners."

The Examination is to be held in at least 14 places, and it is obvious that the Registrar cannot be present in all at the same time.

We shall refer to these Regulations again when finally issued by the Council; meanwhile, we may point out that if they appoint an Examinations Officer and require her to draft Regulations for the conduct of Examinations in Nursing, who, being totally ignorant of nursing, could not herself pass an adequate examination in this subject, they can only blame their own ineptitude when she submits Regulations under conditions which, in the words of Sir Jenner Verrall, were "absurd."

We may also remind the Chairman of the Council, on whose motion the word "Rules" was changed to "Regulations" throughout the document that under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, Section 3 (1) (c) "the Council shall make Rules . . . for regulating the conduct of any examinations which may be prescribed as a condition of admission to the Register, and any matters ancillary to or connected with any such examinations."

Perhaps some day he will find time to "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the Act which it is his duty to administer.

## REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

We have little to add to our previous report except to point out that Miss Cox-Davies (as also Miss Lloyd Still, when moving that the Report of the Education and Examination Committee) was out of order in moving that "my" Report be received. According to the Rules framed under the Nurses' Registration Act, and approved by Parliament, "Each Committee shall elect its own Chairman, and shall report its proceedings to the Council (Powers of Committees, Rule 44 (2))." The Report was, therefore, the Report of the General Purposes Committee, as stated on the Agenda, not the private property of Miss Cox-Davies.

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