

We commend to the attention of the Minister the fact that the Central Midwives Board, which, like the General Nursing Council, is responsible in certain directions to his Department, that it conducts all its business, *i.e.*, the routine of the office, the Examinations, the monthly meetings and Standing Committees, and the legal proceedings in relation to the penal cases—of which there is a ceaseless flow—with an office staff of a Secretary and five clerks, and that the staff of the General Nursing Council for Scotland consists of a Registrar and three clerks. The 43 officials and clerks now employed by our G.N.C. must cost the Registered Nurses thousands of pounds a year.

#### Report of the Registration Committee.

Mr. Donaldson brought out the fact that the Chairman of the Registration Committee (Dr. Goodall) was responsible for the recommendation "That the names of nurses admitted under the Rules Modification Order (*i.e.*, those who may be totally untrained) be placed in alphabetical order among the trained nurses," inasmuch as it was carried in the Registration Committee by his casting vote, with the proviso that the words, "admitted under Rule 9 (1) (g)" should be entered in the column headed "Qualifications." Nurses on the Supplementary Parts of the Register, and especially Sick Children's Nurses, have to thank Miss A. M. Bushby for pointing out the injustice of side-tracking these well-trained nurses, while untrained women were to be admitted to the General Part of the Register, and their names sandwiched in between those of fully-trained nurses. She further expressed the opinion that many lay persons would take the words "admitted under Rule 9 (1) (g)" as a special qualification.

It is grossly unfair to nurses on all parts of the Register that untrained women should be admitted to the full rights and privileges of the General Part of the Register, while the well-trained nurses registered on the Supplementary Parts are debarred from it.

For the protection of the unfortunate public, a full explanation that women registered under Rule 9 (1) (g) are *untrained*, should appear in the explanation preface to the Register, but the only *just and safe* method is to place them in a "prescribed list," as provided by the Nurses' Registration Act.

Dr. Goodall has proved himself a pitiless enemy to our true interests, since he went over to the College group and, upon its vote, has voiced its policy from the chair of our Registration Committee.

We are glad that Miss Bushby called for a division when the Recommendation of the Registration Committee that the names of these untrained women should be "placed in alphabetical order among the trained nurses" was put to the vote. It elicited the fact that the members of the Council who dissociated themselves from this fatal recommendation and voted against it were Miss Bushby, Mr. Donaldson, Miss du Sautoy, Miss Musson, and Miss Wiese. The Chairman did not

vote. Miss Bremner, Dr. Smedley and Mr. Stratton were absent, and the whole of the rest of the Council, lay, medical and College group, voted solidly for the degradation of the General Part of the Register, having previously turned down an amendment moved by Mr. Donaldson, "That the names of the nurses admitted under Rules Modification Order be placed in a separate list following that of the Trained Nurses, and headed with the words, 'Admitted under Rule 9 (1) (g).'"

A point which we invite nurses especially to note and remember is that a certain section of the General Nursing Council, whose views were voiced on October 19th by Miss Cowlin, supported by Miss Cox-Davies, still consider it "a bad precedent" to record that a Registered Nurse is "trained" or "certificated" in the qualification column of the Register.

Justice to trained nurses, and the precedent established in this connection by the Medical Register, the Midwives' Roll, all the Nurses' Registers, statutory and voluntary, *including that of the College of Nursing, Ltd.*, which record qualifications, have apparently no weight with them. Should the College group succeed in despoiling the nurses of the record of their certificates, *they* would be establishing a "precedent," and a dastardly one at that. State Registered Nurses must realise that "College" jealousy of the State Register is capable of any policy to degrade its status. They are advised to be very alert in this connection.

(To be continued.)

### COLLEGE IDEALS.

We hear on all sides of the depreciation of the nursing spirit, and of high professional ideals; can it be wondered at, when, at a recent meeting of the London Centre of the College of Nursing, Ltd., Miss Ruth Darbyshire, R.R.C., Matron of University College Hospital, being in the chair, volunteers were called for to sell the "Poppy Song" in the cinemas, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last week, the inducement being that one halfpenny on each song sold would go to the Appeal Fund for the College Endowment.

And what of the ideals of nurses who are willing to cadge for halfpennies from all and sundry, in public places of amusement, for the endowment of a professional College! If the members of the London Centre have any ideals left, let them, for very shame, produce the halfpennies out of their own pockets, and decline to be associated with the shameful and degrading methods of cadging for halfpence advocated as above stated. This is on a par with taking pence from Tommy and Jack.

### THE PASSING BELL.

We regret to learn that a Miss May Barradell, a nurse at Bury House, a Nursing Home at Edmonton, was found drowned in the River Lea at Wormley, Hertfordshire. She left the home about a fortnight ago and the body had apparently been in the river for about a week when found. There is no suspicion of foul play.

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