

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL MEETING, OCTOBER 19th.

POINTS FOR NURSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

Report of the Education and Examination Committee.

It will be remembered that, on September 21st, the lay Examinations Officer presented a scheme for the Examination of Nurses, omitting altogether all reference to Nursing in the subjects for the Paper to be set in the Preliminary Examination. How typical of the lay mind! It is not surprising that the Recommendation dealing with this proposal had to be rescinded at the meeting on October 19th, and it is greatly to be regretted that the Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee consented to incorporate it in the Report of that Committee on September 21st.

Recommendation 15, Para. 10, approved at the meeting of the Council on September 21st, having been rescinded, the Education Committee made a Recommendation which included, amongst others, the following provisions:—

"That the Preliminary Examination consist of one paper of 3 hours and an oral and a practical.

"That the paper include Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene and Nursing.

"That the Oral and Practical include all the subjects."

These were carried.

We are not surprised in view of this extraordinary omission that Miss du Sautoy should wish to emphasise the importance of Nursing in the Examination, but think that Miss Lloyd-Still's view was logical that the reason Nursing was put last was that it was built up on the other subjects (Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene).

That Nursing has not been entirely omitted will be a relief to those to be examined for a Nursing qualification, entitling them to be registered as Nurses for the sick!

We shall be interested to know how the Council propose to conduct a practical as well as an oral examination in anatomy and physiology. We hope great importance will be given to evidence of practical Nursing skill, both in handling the patients and in preparing practical nursing appliances used for their comfort and recovery.

We note with interest that the Scottish Council has adopted the plan of having two written papers of two hours each, so apparently Scottish Hospital Authorities find it practicable to spare the examinees for these periods.

We are in entire agreement with Dr. Bedford Pierce that there should be continuity in the work of the Examiners. How are they to organise this important work if it is to be disrupted every twelve months? The reason given by the Chairman was that "it was thought that hospitals could not possibly spare members of their nursing staffs for more than one year." It is quite possible, however, to find efficient Examiners outside the staffs of hospitals.

A Uniform Fee.

In regard to the fees for the *viva voce* Examination (7s. 6d.) and the Practical Examination (5s.), we think the explanation given by the Chairman to MISS WIESE is inadequate, *i.e.* that higher fees would go to the nurses as the nurse Examiner could take three candidates at a time. The medical and nurse Examiners should be paid the same fee for each candidate.

First Class Fares.

In regard to the provision for first-class fares to be paid to Examiners, while the members of the Council travel third-class, we commend to the attention of the Chairman, who stated they would not get Examiners if they did not pay first-class fare, a story told by Dean Ramsay in his "Reminiscences." A dying woman begged her husband to bury her in the country kirkyard at Stra'von beside her mother, saying that "she could not rest in peace among unco folk in the dirt and smoke of Glasgow." "Weel, weel, Jenny, my woman," said John, soothingly, "we'll just pit you in the Gorbals *first*, and gin ye dinna lie quiet, we'll try you sine in Stra'von." We are quite sure the nurses who will travel to be examined will not be able to afford to pay for first-class fares.

Report of the Mental Nursing Committee.

Why did the Council agree to the recommendation that a circular letter be sent to the Medical Superintendents of the Mental Hospitals enclosing the Syllabus of Training in Mental Nursing? The Senior Nursing Officer is the Matron, and nursing is now a legally constituted profession, which the G.N.C. constantly ignores.

We dissent from the Recommendation "That the practical examination be conducted by a Registered Nurse 'having special qualifications in mental nursing'"—the Chairman, Dr. Bedford Pierce, having deliberately excised the Recommendation that she must be a Registered Mental Nurse—and consider the recommendation of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association preferable, namely, "That the General Nursing Council be asked to appoint a Mental Hospital Matron holding the double qualification to act as an examiner at all examination centres for mental nurses." Candidates for the Examination in mental nursing have a right to be examined by an Examiner whose name is on the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, though it is not essential that she should be a Matron.

An Audited Balance Sheet.

We strongly support the proposal of Mr. Donaldson that the Council should issue an audited Balance Sheet. The Registered Nurses who provide the funds for its upkeep have a right to know how their money is expended. The G.N.C. has now handled between £40,000 and £50,000, and so far no audited statement has been issued to Registered Nurses. Such a Statement should be presented in detail, showing the cost of the

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