

necessary for the Council to fix the increments on the basis of passing each of two examinations instead of three. It recommended that the resolution approved as to revision of rates of pay of subordinate nursing and indoor staff be not further acted upon, and that the following be the scale of pay for probationer nurses employed at the London County Mental Hospitals, and Institutions for Defectives:—

Males: 34s., with an increment of 3s. a week, on passing each of the two examinations (preliminary and final) of the Medico-Psychological Association.

Females: 27s. 3d. a week, with increments on passing the preliminary and final examinations of the Medico-Psychological Association.

We desire, therefore, to draw the attention of the London County Council to the fact that under the powers conferred upon it by Act of Parliament, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will hold an optional examination in July, 1924, and that in July, 1925, its examinations, both preliminary and final, will be compulsory for all Mental Nurses before they can be admitted to the Supplementary Part of the State Register, which will be the only examination thenceforth of any value to Mental Nurses, as it is the only means through which a legal qualification can be obtained, with the right to a protected uniform and badge.

Miss B. Lazarus, Hon. Secretary of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, announces a total to date of £752. 7s. collected for the South African Trained Nurses' War Memorial Fund. The memorial takes the form of a fund, the interest on which is to help aged and incapacitated nurses, who are unable to carry on their work; later, as funds permit, a nurses' residential club, with a special section for old and disabled nurses, may be started in each Province. The money collected goes to a central fund, and the interest is expended in each Province in proportion as it is collected. An appeal is made for help to perpetuate the memory of those noble women who thought not of themselves, but laid down their lives to aid and comfort wounded soldiers in their need. Some of the very nurses to be helped by this fund will be among those who had part in this work, but who survived and fell on evil days. The fund is still open.

We learn that it is the intention of quite a number of nurses from South Africa to attend the Great Empire Exhibition at Wembley next year.

THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the above Council was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on Thursday, November 22nd. Councillor Beatrice Kent, President, was in the chair. A progressive Agenda was considered:

1. It was decided to help Major R. W. Barnett, the nurses' registration champion, in his appeal to the electors of South-West St. Pancras.

2. The status and pay of Health Visitors was considered, and it was agreed to invite support to a scheme that trained nursing must be a fundamental qualification for Health Visitors in England.

3. A resolution was adopted, to be sent to the right authority, pointing out that Mental Nurses under the Nurses' Registration Act, had a right to a "prescribed" scheme of training and examination under the authority of the General Nursing Council; and that it was time the Medico-Psychological Association, which has done excellent work in the past, in examining Mental Nurses, should—as the London Obstetrical Society did in regard to midwives—cease to examine Mental Nurses, and thus cause needless confusion. The only examination of value to Mental Nurses in the future would be that under the authority of the General Nursing Council, which qualified for State Registration and a legal title.

4. The question of pensions for officials of the G.N.C., now being considered by the General Purposes Committee, was discussed. As the Registered Nurses would have to pay for all these pensions, they had a right to consider this matter. It was recognised that thousands of pounds would be required to place such pensions on a safe actuarial basis, and only a contributory scheme would be justifiable after a sufficient term of service, as Registered nurses could afford very small pensions for themselves.

5. The Constitution of the Electorate for the future of the General Nursing Council was considered, and a fair system of representation agreed upon, to be supported when the Rule came before Parliament.

The meeting then adjourned.

MARGARET BREAY, *Hon. Secretary.*

POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

ELECTION OF HON. OFFICERS, 1923.

Re-elected.—President, Miss Hannaford; Treasurer, Miss Inglis.

Four members of the Executive Committee retire annually.

Elected in place of these four:—Miss Burgess, Miss Cockrell, R.R.C. Miss Masters, and Miss Todd, R.R.C.

Existing Members:—Miss Alsop, Miss Acton, R.R.C., Miss Booth, Miss Jones, A.R.R.C., Mrs. Roberts, Miss Smith, Miss Taylor, R.R.C., Miss Woodman, M.B.E.

Elected Secretary:—Miss Dodds, R.R.C., Bethnal Green Hospital, E.2.

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