

Wales, is the only evidence which will entitle Probationer Nurses in its employment to an increment of salary on the ground of having passed an Examination in mental nursing.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

BEATRICE KENT,
President.

A PLEASANT REUNION.

Miss C. Reimann, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, was the guest of honour at a pleasant Reunion arranged by Miss Isabel Macdonald at the Club of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W., on December 7th, which she had expressed a desire to see.

It was a friendly and informal gathering, convened at short notice, of some members of the Nursing Profession interested in National and International Nursing questions. Tea was daintily served in the drawing-room, and dispensed by Miss Macdonald and Miss Liddiatt. Not only were general hospital nurses represented, by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses, and others, but Miss Macaulay, Matron of the West Kent County Hospital, had come up from Maidstone and, with Miss M. Lord, late Matron of Banstead Mental Hospital, was able to give Miss Reimann expert information about Mental Nursing in this country, in which she appeared much interested. During the afternoon Miss Reimann was taken over the Club by Miss Macdonald and much appreciated the arrangements made for the comfort of the members. She leaves this week for New York, where she will be staying at Teachers' College, Columbia University, returning only in the summer of 1925 in time for the meeting of the International Council of Nurses at Helsingfors.

TERRITORIAL ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

The Matron-in-Chief (T.A.N.S.) requests that all members of the Territorial Army Nursing Service will submit their enrolment parchments to their Principal Matrons before January 1, 1924, in order that they may be initialled in accordance with paragraph 4 of the instructions on the parchment.

PRESERVATIVES AND COLOURING MATTER IN FOOD.

An inquiry into the use of preservatives and colouring matters in food was opened in November by the Committee which the Government appointed in July. It will report on:

"Whether the use of such materials or any of them for the preservation and colouring of food is injurious to health, and, if so, in what quantities does their use become injurious; and

"Whether it should be required that the presence of such materials and the quantities present in food offered or exposed for sale should be declared."

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

NOVEMBER 16th.

POINTS FOR NURSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

THE STATE EXAMINATION OF MENTAL NURSES.

In connection with the letter from the Minister of Health on the Syllabus of Subjects for Examination of Mental Nurses, read at the last meeting of the Council, drawing attention to the similarity between the proposed Examination, and that already conducted by the Medico-Psychological Association, the point to be remembered by Mental Nurses is that only by passing the State Examination can they obtain legal status through admission to the State Register, and the right to wear a protected uniform and badge, and that the value of the Examination of the Medico-Psychological Association ceases, when that held under State Authority is established.

Just as the London Obstetrical Society ceased to examine midwives when the examination of the Central Midwives' Board was instituted, so the M.P.A., which has done excellent work in the past, in standardising the examinations of Mental Nurses, should discontinue its examination upon the establishment of that set up under the authority of the State.

FEE FOR EXAMINATION.

The exception taken by the National Asylum Workers' Union to the fee charged for the Preliminary Examination is a question which cannot be summarily dismissed. We agree with the Chairman that the fees must be sufficient to meet the expenses of the Examination. The question is whether the expenses are kept down, as far as is consistent with efficiency. The high salary paid to a lay woman, with no professional nursing training, engaged as "Examinations' Officer," appears to be one item which might be saved. The Central Midwives' Board has, in the whole of its existence, not found it necessary to incur this expense, all the work in connection with its examinations being performed by the regular office staff, in the course of their routine work.

One cannot wonder that a union of working nurses takes exception to high fees, when high salaries for officials, and first-class railway fares for examiners, are taken into consideration.

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE FUTURE.

We note that the Council have under consideration the question of moving into larger premises. Had it been well-advised, it would have taken larger premises to start with, and not have had to incur the great expenses of moving within the first few years of its existence.

A report as to the need for expansion of premises was presented to the General Purposes Committee by the Examinations Officer, which appear to us entirely outside her province.

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