

be engraved the name and registered number of the Nurse.

Badges not yet Available.

We are invited to draw attention to the fact that it will be, in any case, some weeks before the Badge is ready for issue, and that no applications for Badges need be sent to the office of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, or to the jewellers meanwhile.

Term of Grace Expires on July 29th.

We are asked to remind Scottish Nurses that the last date for receiving applications from Existing Nurses expires in Scotland on July 29th.

In reply to a letter from a Scottish Registered Nurse, the Assistant Secretary of the Scottish Board of Health informs her that the English Rule, that is, Rule 9 (r) (g), which was superseded by Dr. Chapple's so-called modification, "was approved by the Scottish Board of Health on May 2nd last. This Rule has not yet been submitted to Parliament, but this will be done at an early date."

This means presumably that the Scottish Register is also to be thrown open to untrained persons, on Dr. Chapple's terms. As the proceedings of the General Nursing Council for Scotland are not open to the Press, the nurses on the Scottish Register will know nothing of it until too late to protest.

REGISTER CLOSED TO EXISTING NURSES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

On Saturday last, July 14th, the Register was closed, according to the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act to Existing Nurses, and no applications which are received at the office of the General Nursing Council after that date can be legally considered.

That is the law.

But to judge from a letter shown to us, the law in this particular may be evaded, as it has been in others; and as the Nurses' Registration business is done *in camera* no one will be any the wiser, as at the present rate of registration under the Riddell régime, years may elapse before such applications are dealt with. The Register to contain the names of those registered up to December 31st, 1922, and due in January, 1923, has not yet been published; and, as we hear thousands of V.A.D.s and untrained persons have during the past few weeks simply bombarded headquarters with applications, one can imagine the "meticulous and ridiculous" condition of our registration affairs.

In this connection we regret to hear that Miss Davies, the Registration clerk, has resigned. We are not surprised.

This office has proved a most onerous one, and the work has had to be done under almost impos-

sible conditions. Moreover, whilst Miss Davies, a well-qualified Registered Nurse, after three years' exacting work, is only receiving a salary at the rate of £250 a year, the unprofessional clerk, from University College (recommended by Sir Cooper Perry) has been appointed as Examinations Officer at a commencing salary of £375, rising £400, and it is not astonishing that this job has aroused the deepest indignation throughout the Nursing world and much comment at Headquarters.

The compilation of the Nurses' Register is highly expert professional work. In our advertising columns will be found the terms upon which Registered Nurses may apply for the post of Registration Clerk. The salary remains at £250 per annum. That is £125 less than that given to an unprofessional woman for less responsible work.

NURSES BULLIED IN CAMERA.

Miss M. E. Wiese, R.M.N., an independent member of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, does not hesitate to express her opinion on its methods in the Press. And very wisely. Honour where honour is due, but when a Statutory Body governs with hoofs down, and bullies nurse members *in camera* who object to its autocratic rule, publicity is the only hope, and we congratulate Miss Wiese in not being over-squeamish in using her pen in protest.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WALTHAMSTOW HOSPITAL DEATH.

JULY 12TH.

MR. GROVES asked the Minister of Health whether he will inquire into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Charles P. Keating, who was given an overdose of atropine at the Walthamstow hospital; and whether, as this circumstance has taken the bread-winner from the home, he will take some means of ensuring the future of Mrs. Keating and her seven children, who are all under 14 years of age?

LORD E. PERCY: My right hon. Friend has no jurisdiction to order such an inquiry as the Hon. Member suggests.

REMARKS.

We referred last week to the death from poisoning by atropine, "accidentally administered," of two unfortunate young men by a probationer at Walthamstow General Hospital. Mr. Groves's question to the Minister of Health proves how terrible will be the result to Mrs. Keating and her seven children, left as they are without the support of husband and father.

But Lord Eustace Percy's reply is very significant, and the excuse of "no jurisdiction" is always the reply of the Ministry of Health where

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)