

## RECIPROCAL REGISTRATION.

It will be noted that while in the Register of Nurses published under the direction of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the qualification by virtue of which the Registered Nurse is admitted to the Register is placed in the Qualification Column, in the Register published by the direction of the General Nursing Council for Scotland the qualification is only entered in the case of a nurse holding a three years' certificate of training. In all other cases it is represented thus —. This is apparently the only information possessed by the English Council when registering applicants registered on the Scottish Register, other than those holding a three years' certificate of training.

## GOING BEHIND THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT.

At its meeting on December 18th the General Nursing Council adopted an entirely new procedure, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council, acting on behalf of the members who attended the Conference held at the Ministry of Health on December 13th between members of the General Nursing Council, of the Medico-Psychological Association, and representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Scottish Board of Health, and the Board of Control. It decided to invite the Medico-Psychological Association to form an Advisory Committee to assist the General Nursing Council, and to confer with the Mental Nursing Committee for the purposes of matters appertaining to the Final Examinations for admission to the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses. The Resolutions of such meetings to be recommendations to the Council, thus irregularly conferring upon members of a private medical association power not conferred upon them on the Nurses' Governing Body under the Nurses' Registration Act.

The Council also agreed to the Chairman's second recommendation to invite the Medico-Psychological Association to nominate the Examiners for the Final Examinations for appointment by the General Nursing Council.

A similar recommendation was made in regard to the nomination of an Advisory Committee by the Association of County Medical Officers of Health to assist the General Nursing Council by considering, together with the Education and Examination Committee, by what method of training nurses the General Nursing Council can best assist the Public Health authorities.

Sir Jenner Verrall endeavoured in vain at the meeting of the Council on December 18th to get the powers of this Advisory Committee defined. He asked: (1) Were they to tender advice when asked, or (2) were they to tender advice unasked; (3) were they to put forward matters for discussion; (4) how far was it competent for the Council to seek their advice? We desire to ask yet another question: Are irregular nominees on Standing Committees to have voting power concerning the conjoint recommendations to be made to the Council?

The recommendation in regard to the invitation to the Association of County Medical Officers of Health was referred back to the Education Committee for further consideration and report.

When the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was set up under the Statute of 1919, Parliament granted a Governing Body to the Registered Nurses on which they were in a majority of 16 to 9. Irregular appointments on Standing Committees aim at giving greatly increased power to medical practitioners.

The Council includes three mental experts, and two, if not three, experts on Public Health and Public Health Nursing, and it is futile to suppose that they cannot give, or obtain, all the advice needed by the Council.

It is evident from what transpired in the course of the discussion that the Chairman of the Council anticipates, and indeed approves, that the examination of the Medico-Psychological Association shall run concurrently with that of the General Nursing Council, and when it was pointed out to him that if the M.P.A. Examination was to be equivalent, and the same, as that of the G.N.C. and conducted for a less fee, the nurses would naturally be satisfied with the former Examination, the Chairman's amazing reply was, that he did not mind; he "didn't care if they don't register."

Dr. Bedford Pierce expressed the view that if there was but one examination, run concurrently, many more would register; and Miss Wiese thought it "up to us to press them to go in for the State Examination."

The point is that the Council is prepared to depreciate the prestige of the State Examination which it is its duty to protect.

## COLLEGE IDEALS.

## A DEGRADING DOCUMENT.

We have received from indignant members of the College of Nursing, Ltd., copies of a printed communication from Headquarters, signed by the Chairman, making "Suggestions for Collecting Members" for the College of Nursing Endowment Fund.

It fills us with amazement and indignation. It is the most degrading document which this lay-governed institution could possibly communicate to professional women. Nothing short of a wide Public Protest is needed to divest the community of the erroneous conclusion that trained nurses are petty gamblers, scavengers, and imbeciles. The Matrons of leading Training Schools who have seats on the College Council are deserving of the severest censure for issuing such a disgraceful document to the members of our honourable profession.

1. We are invited to play cards for money, winnings to go to the Endowment Fund.
2. To cadge refreshments from friends at social gatherings.
3. Buy for and trade in discarded garments, jewellery, plate, furniture, cooking utensils and drapery, eggs, vegetables, fruit, cakes.

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