

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W., on July 20th, at 2.30 p.m. SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P. (Chairman of the Council), presiding.

I.—Minutes of the last Meeting.

The Minutes of the last Meeting (June 15th, 1923) were confirmed.

II.—Correspondence.

The Correspondence included the following letters :—

DR. CHAPPLE'S MODIFICATION OF RULE 9 (1) (g).

(1) Letter from the Hon. Secretary, Association of Hospital Matrons, dated June 22nd, 1923, enclosing copy of Resolution passed by the Executive Committee of that Association on June 21st, 1923, as follows :—

"That we, the Executive Committee of the Association of Hospital Matrons, view with alarm the grave results which we believe will accrue as a result of the action taken by Dr. Chapple in bringing his 'Motion' before the House of Commons, on June 14th, 1923, and which cannot fail to depreciate the value of the State Register.

"The Association appreciates fully the position of the older Nurses, whose status was, however, safeguarded by the Rule drawn up by the General Nursing Council and signed as approved by the Minister of Health."

(2) Letter from the Secretary, Poor Law Matrons' Association, dated June 26th, 1923, as follows :—

Whipps Cross Hospital,
Leytonstone, E.11.

June 26th, 1923.

Dear Sir,—At the Executive Committee of the above Association I was instructed to write to you and convey the very great regret of the Association of the action of Dr. Chapple, M.P., in bringing forward the proposals of The Medical Parliamentary Committee, as opposed to the recommendations of the General Nursing Council.

Believe me,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) LETITIA S. CLARK,

Hon. Secretary.

Sir Wilmot Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Chairman of the General Nursing Council.

(3) Letter from the Secretary, The College of Nursing, Limited, dated June 29th, 1923, enclosing copy of Resolution passed by the Members of the College at their Annual Meeting at Cardiff, on June 28th, 1923, as follows :—

"That the members of the College of Nursing, Limited, assembled at Cardiff, on the occasion of their Annual Meeting and Conference, on June 28th, 1923, most deeply regret that the House of Commons, on Wednesday, June 13th, decided to petition His Majesty to supersede the Statutory duty of the General Nursing Council, to satisfy itself that a candidate for

State Registration possesses adequate knowledge and experience of the Nursing of the sick, by accepting in place of such investigation a bare certificate, signed by a Registered Nurse, and two medical men, even though subject to a special enquiry."

(4) Letter from the Chairman of the Yorkshire Centre of the College of Nursing, dated July 3rd, 1923, enclosing copy of a Resolution passed by the Members of the Bradford Branch of the Yorkshire Centre of the College of Nursing, as follows :—

"That the Bradford Affiliated Branch of the Yorkshire Centre of the College of Nursing do strongly protest against the modifications in Rule 9 of the Nurses' Registration Act, brought forward by Dr. Chapple.

"They feel very keenly that any further widening of the door of admission to the Register for Existing Nurses would not only be a great breach of faith to the nurses who have already registered, and would defeat the object for which the G.N.C. have worked so hard—to raise the status of the trained nurse."

5.—GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND. Re REGISTERED UNIFORM.

A letter from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland stating that at the meeting of that Council held on July 6th he was instructed to inquire whether the General Nursing Council for England and Wales would be prepared to allow the Scottish Council to adopt the same uniform as that adopted in England with the exception that the buttons should be bone, plain black, and the hat trimming navy blue ribbon without any woven badge.

On the motion of Mr. Donaldson, seconded by Miss Cox Davies, the letter was referred to the Uniform Committee for report.

6.—RESOLUTION FROM THE REGISTERED NURSES' PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL.

The Chairman read the following Resolution, sent by Councillor Beatrice Kent, President of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, on its behalf :—

Resolution carried unanimously at a Meeting of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, held at 431, Oxford Street, W., July 17th 1923 :

"The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council strongly protests against the degradation of the General Part of the Register, upon the initiative of the Chairman and Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd. (see official letter from the Secretary of the College on its behalf, dated December 29th, 1922, incorporated in the Report of the Registration Committee presented to the General Nursing Council on March 16th, 1923, which was approved, without comment or protest, by the Members of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on the General Nursing Council), and by the submission to the Minister of Health, and to Parliament, of Rule 9 (1) (g) under which untrained persons could claim admission to the Register, if in practice before 1900, an action which made it possible for Dr. Chapple, M.P., to move, and carry, a modification of this Rule, opening the General Part of the Register to every untrained person in practice up to 1916, upon the recommendation of doctors and nurses, thereby depriving the General Nursing Council of the discretion bestowed

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)