

upon it by Parliament in the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, of satisfying itself that the nurses admitted to the Register as in attendance upon the sick before November 1st, 1919, must produce evidence that they are engaged in practice 'under conditions which appear to the Council to be satisfactory for the purposes of this provision,' and that they 'have adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick.'

"In the opinion of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, had the Chairman and General Nursing Council been alive to the interests of the Registered Nurses and the public, they would, at once, have refused to submit to the interference of the College of Nursing, Ltd., with its affairs, and it strongly condemns the policy of the Council in permitting this Limited Company to dictate to it with regard to its Statutory duties.

"In the opinion of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council the present General Nursing Council has proved itself totally incapable of circumventing the ignoble policy of the Chairman and Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and of protecting the interests of the Registered Nurses who placed their names upon the General Part of the Register under the Statutory Rules (1921), and with whom, in its opinion, a gross breach of faith has been made possible by the incompetence of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

"The inevitable result of the new Order-in-Council will be to place the sick at the mercy of incompetent Nurses, guaranteed by the General Nursing Council as having 'adequate knowledge and experience of the nursing of the sick,' thus placing the sick public in a most dangerous and defenceless position.

"The Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council desires further to enter its strong protest against the depreciation of Nursing Education by the refusal of the General Nursing Council to guarantee to probationers in training a compulsory scheme of education, and in recognizing, as Training Schools, institutions which are not compelled to guarantee any system or standard of teaching whatever.

"In the opinion of this Council the authorisation of an Advisory Syllabus by the General Nursing Council is a mere subterfuge under which the Council shirks a most important duty imposed upon it by Parliament, and the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council calls upon the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to again invite the Minister of Health, at the earliest opportunity, to sign the Syllabus of Training in General Nursing, framed after so much consideration by the First General Nursing Council for England and Wales."

Question by Miss Cox Davies.

MISS COX DAVIES here asked leave to ask a question on a subject on which she desired information, in reference to a correspondence over the signature of Miss Maude MacCallum, which appeared in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of July 7th. Was it true that the Council's Registrar wrote a letter in the terms printed in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of that date?

THE CHAIRMAN said the answer was in the negative. He would state what actually occurred. The Registration Committee at its meeting on May 25th had before it for consideration what instructions should be given in regard to the closing of the Register to Existing Nurses, and formed an opinion.

Some days later an official letter was received

from the Registrar of the College of Nursing, asking what was the latest date on which applications from Existing Nurses would be accepted. This letter was sent down to the Registration Clerk, the reply taken down in shorthand, typed, and subsequently laid on his (the Chairman's) desk. When it went back the letter was copied, and conveyed directly, or indirectly, to Miss MacCallum. The letter she received was published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING of July 7th, under the heading "Preferential Treatment for College Members. Totally Illegal." If he had received that letter he would probably have been as indignant as Miss MacCallum:

But the fact was that the Registration Clerk, returning after lunch, examined afresh the draft and being dissatisfied with it, did not send it.

The Clerk who sent the copy of the Draft which reached Miss MacCallum omitted the word "not" (which appeared both in the shorthand note and in the typed copy), so that the letter read "A form issued, say this month, would be accepted if it were returned to this Office, say in twelve months' time," whereas the original sentence ran, "A form issued would *not* be accepted," &c. He was glad to say no blame was attached to the Registration Clerk. He was sorry that Miss MacCallum and THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING should have been so very badly hoaxed.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE thought it was extraordinary that the letter should have been sent to outside people, and MISS SEYMOUR YAPP spoke in the same sense.

THE CHAIRMAN said that they might take it for granted that information would always get out, and what the Council had to see was that nothing was done in the office which it was ashamed of getting out.

Interviewing Officer.

The Chairman asked the Council's leave to continue the appointment of the Interviewing Officer until its next meeting. This would require the sanction of the Minister of Health, but if the Council agreed to the proposition he would obtain that.

III.—REPORTS OF COMMITTEE.

1.—Report of the Finance Committee.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, SIR JENNER VERRALL, the Report was presented by MR. R. DONALDSON, who moved that it be received.

I. The Report stated that the Committee had met once.

II. Recommendation 1.

That the Bills and Claims submitted for payment be approved.

III. Recommendation 2.

That the sum of £810 for salaries and £700 for stamps be allowed to carry on until the second week of September.

IV. REPORTED—That the Committee approved the investment of £8,000, and requested the

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