

rules laid down for admission to the General Part of the Register was one which required at least one year's technical training in a general hospital or Poor Law Infirmary. This rule was approved by the Minister of Health on July 14th, 1921, and was very shortly after that date sanctioned by the Houses of Parliament. It is noteworthy that not the slightest objection was raised at the time. In framing the rule the Council believed that they would by its aid compile a register, as they were required to do by the Act, which could with safety to the sick be consulted by the public and the medical profession. The Council believed that they were right in their interpretation of the spirit of the Act, not only by consideration of the words of the Act but by contrasting them with the phrase used in the Midwives' Act, which dealt with existing Midwives. They were strengthened in their view by the fact that while the Midwives' Act made registration compulsory the Nurses' Act did not. The recent decision, however, of the House of Commons has altered the whole aspect of registration so far as the safety of the public is concerned. The discretion hitherto exercised by a Council, the members of which are responsible to their constituents or to certain Government Departments, has now been transferred to a number of medical practitioners and nurses who are responsible to no one but themselves; and the public will have little or no guarantee that the nurses whose names appear on the Register as "Existing" Nurses are properly qualified to nurse the sick.

The Council further desire to draw attention to the effect which the House of Commons' rule will have on the Act, as by the new rule there is nothing whatever to prevent certain medical practitioners and nurses from recommending for registration on the General Part of the Register nurses who have been employed almost entirely in the nursing of sick children, mentally afflicted persons and fever patients, and as it would appear that the Council can hardly refuse to register such persons recommended in accordance with the rule, it becomes a question whether the Supplementary Parts of the Register dealing with these special nurses, two of which Parts were instituted by the Act, are not rendered useless. The House of Commons' Rule also renders much more difficult the arrangement of reciprocal registration with the Colonies and British Dominions beyond the seas, several of which have passed a Nurses' Registration Act whereby the registration of nurses is limited (even as regards existing nurses) to those who have been trained.

Lastly, the Council are of the opinion that some consideration should have been shown to those nurses, many thousands in number, who have already registered under the present rules and that it should not have been left till the eleventh hour to alter so completely the character of the Register.

#### Discussion.

DR. GOODALL said the Supplementary Report was a statement of the position created by Dr.

Chapple's amendment. The effect was to nullify the Supplementary Registers, and to nullify the Act as far as the Existing Nurses were concerned.

In reply to a question from the HON. MRS. EUSTACE HILLS, the CHAIRMAN said he had hinted at the last meeting that, in his humble opinion, the Amendment had gone beyond what was permissible. It modified the Act by taking away the discretion given to the General Nursing Council under the provisions. He did not profess to know what the law would be, but had asked for a legal opinion. If that opinion was that the Council could contest the modification with any chance of success then it would have to consider what steps should be taken. But their legal adviser was unwilling to advise them to take the risk until he knew more of the position.

#### VI.—Report of the Uniform Committee.

In the absence of Miss Villiers (Chairman of the Uniform Committee), the Report was presented by Miss Cox-Davies.

I. REPORTED that the Committee had met twice, on June 25th and July 4th.

II. REPORTED that estimates for the supply of the uniform material, buttons and braid had been received from several firms in answer to the advertisements inserted in the trade journals.

##### Recommendation 25.

That it be left to the nurses to obtain the material from any firm they choose, provided the uniform is made up according to the registered designs, and the specified material (weight and colour) used.

##### III. Recommendation 26.

That any firm or tailor must apply for permission from the Council to make the uniform, as the registered designs are the property of the Council.

##### IV. Recommendation 27.

That the following estimate of Mr. Boyd Cooper, 4, George Street, Hanover Square, be accepted for the supply of the registered buttons and braid:—

Buttons, British manufacture: 22 line, 4s. gross, or 5d. dozen; 36 line, 7s. gross, or 8d. dozen; 45 line, 10s. 3d. gross, or 11d. dozen.

Braid, British manufacture, 102s. per gross yards, or 9d. per yard.

##### V. Recommendation 28.

That the following estimate of Messrs. George Kenning & Son, 1-4, Little Britain, E.C. 1, be accepted for the supply of woven hat bands and woven badges:

Woven hat-band, 18s. 6d. per dozen; woven badge, 21s. per gross.

##### VI. Recommendation 29.

That the following estimate of Messrs. Henry Heath, Ltd., 105-109, Oxford Street, W., be accepted for the supply of velour hats and straw hats: First quality velour hat, 26s. 6d.; second quality velour hat, 18s. 6d.; first quality straw hat, 26s. 6d.; second quality straw hat, 21s. (Hat band to cost 1s. 6d. extra in each case.)

##### VII. Recommendation 30.

That the hat-bands and woven badges be issued from the Council office.

##### VIII. Recommendation 31.

That the sum of £4 4s. be paid to Mr. Boyd Cooper for the copyright of the designs submitted by him for

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