

(b) "In reply to your letter, I herewith enclose the form of application. The application commences from the *issue* of the form from this office."

(c) "It has been decided that forms of application *issued* up to and including the 14th July will be in order."

After the bombshell exploded, these ladies were hastily informed that "your application for Registration must be in this office by July 14th."

With all due respect to the Chairman of the G.N.C., it is not "Miss MacCallum and the *B.J.N.*" that are being hoaxed, but Sir Wilmot Herringham, who must perforce believe whatever is told him by his staff, and they appear to be able to lead him gently up and down the garden path whenever the exigencies of the case demand it.

In a communication received from the Minister of Health, the following occurs: "The Minister has been in communication with the General Nursing Council on the subject and he is informed that in dealing with an official enquiry by the Registrar of the College of Nursing a draft letter was prepared in the office of the General Nursing Council, but was not approved by the Council and therefore not sent."

Who gave the Minister this information? Surely Sir Wilmot Herringham must be aware that at this time the matter had never been before the Council.

As Chairman he gives his version. The letter published was laid in draft on a desk. The Registration clerk, "returning after lunch, examined afresh the draft, and being dissatisfied with it, did not send it."

If the Minister states the "draft was not approved by the *Council* and therefore not sent," and the Chairman says the "Registration clerk returning after lunch examined afresh the draft and being dissatisfied with it did not send it," only one conclusion can be drawn, *i.e.*, the junior office staff on occasions can represent the Council.

Re LETTER FROM GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL TO THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, LTD.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The explanations with regard to the letter I forwarded to THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, on the 7th inst., seem to be as varied as the replies of the Registrar to the different people who applied to know the last day on which an application form could be received for Registration. I wrote to the Minister of Health, enclosing him some of those letters, and I have received the following. He replies that the letter I stated was sent was prepared in the office of the General Nursing Council, but was not approved by the Council, and, therefore, not sent. I have been informed that this matter had *never been brought before the Council up to the time of my publishing that letter*, so that it would seem that the Minister of Health has not been given correct information by the General Nursing Council.

MAUDE MACCALLUM.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH.

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.
July 13th, 1923.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of the 4th inst. with which you enclose a copy of a reply alleged to have been sent by the General Nursing Council to an enquiry made by the Registrar of the College of Nursing, regarding the latest date for the receipt of applications for registration.

The Minister has been in communication with the General Nursing Council on the subject, and he is informed that, in dealing with an official enquiry by the Registrar of the College of Nursing, a draft letter was prepared in the office of the General Nursing Council, but was not approved by the Council, and, therefore, not sent.

The wording of the enclosure to your letter follows the wording of the rejected draft, with the exception of the omission of the important word "not" between the words "would" and "be accepted," in the ninth line, which, of course, completely alters the sense of that paragraph

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) L. G. Brock.

Miss Maude MacCallum,
Professional Union of Trained Nurses.

[What about the first paragraph of letter?—
M. MACC.].

MORE ELUSIVE DOCUMENTS.

As we reported last week we have received for publication the copy of a letter sent by Miss M. S. Rundle, the Secretary of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to Miss Riddell, the Registrar of the G.N.C., in reply to one received from her on the burning question of the "elusive document." We asked for a copy of Miss Riddell's letter, as no doubt it would throw light on the question, befogged by Sir Wilmot Herringham at the recent meeting of the G.N.C.

Miss Rundle now informs us that she has "no authority to send a copy of the letter written to me by the Registrar of the General Nursing Council."

Why does she not obtain such authority? We wonder!

Anyway, we publish both or neither.

A PUBLIC DANGER.

We learn that the Privy Council was far from unanimous in agreeing to Dr. Chapple's "modification" of Rule 9 (1) (g).

The *Morning Post* published an illuminating article on Dr. Chapple's new Rules—the only London daily, by the by, that appears to realise that skilled nursing is a national asset. The article concludes: "It was intended to confer

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