

POINTS FOR NURSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE G.N.C.,
JULY 20th, 1923.

Correspondence.

(1) The Association of Hospital Matrons deplored the effect of Dr. Chapple's Modification of Rule 9 (1) (g), but failed to condemn the action of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to which the large majority of the Association belong, in taking the initiative in opening the General Part of the Register to untrained women (see letter from Miss Rundle, Secretary, College of Nursing, Ltd., to G.N.C., December 29th, 1922, which contains the following sentence: "The Council (College) begs respectfully to urge that the door of admission to the first State Register should not be closed to any Existing Nurses who can show that they were in *bona fide* practice as nurses for three years before November, 1919").

(2) Copy of Resolution passed by members of the College at their Annual Meeting at Cardiff, also deploring the "Modification," but omitting to condemn their own Council which initiated the agitation to place persons without training on the State Register.

(3) That the Bradford Branch of the College had the sense to appreciate and condemn the breach of faith with Registered Nurses in throwing open the Register to the totally untrained.

(4) Resolution from the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council (1) Condemning the conduct of the Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in taking the initiative to degrade the State Register; and (2) strongly disapproving of the policy of the G.N.C. in permitting interference in its Statutory duties by a Limited Company, and expressing the conviction that the present G.N.C. had proved itself totally incapable of circumventing the ignoble policy of the College and of protecting the interests of the Registered Nurses. (3) The Resolution also enters a strong protest against the depreciation of Nursing Education by the refusal of the G.N.C. to guarantee to probationers in training a compulsory scheme of education, and in recognising as Training Schools, institutions which are not compelled to guarantee any system or standard of teaching whatever.

The Chairman and the Elusive Document.

That the Chairman of the G.N.C. gave a most unsatisfactory explanation to a question put up by Miss Cox-Davies, *re* the correspondence between the Registrars of the College and the G.N.C., which suggested illegal preferential treatment after July 14th for College members. He denied the first draft of reply was sent, but did not produce the reply which was sent by the Council to the College. We call for that letter, and hope it will be submitted when the Press is present at a future meeting of the Council.

Report of Finance Committee.

That the huge sum of Seven Hundred Pounds was requisitioned for stamps until the second week in

September—that is for *eight* weeks! and that another enormous advance in clerical expenditure recommended by the little General Purposes Committee was all agreed to. No statement has ever been made of the approximate cost of the Register for July to December, 1922, which is already seven months late, and for which thousands of nurses have paid their Retention Fee nine months ago, and for work on which thousands of pounds of the nurses' money has been expended in clerical labour—the Registration Staff consisting of a Registration Clerk and twenty subordinates! The Finance Committee is controlled by a Medical Chairman.

Report of Registration Committee.

That a Rule approved by the Council for reciprocal registration with Scotland and Northern Ireland was not approved by the Minister, who pointed out weak spots and suggested amendments. The Council proposed that the Registrars should have absolute power of effecting between them reciprocal registration—a most bureaucratic and dangerous system. The Minister recommended desirable safeguards against the autocratic system proposed by the Registration Committee.

The Rules for reciprocal registration should be identical. At present they are not so—as the Scottish Council demands part training or residence and practice in Scotland—which the other Councils do not so far as England and Northern Ireland are concerned. Apparently no members of our G.N.C. are cognisant of this exaction upon the part of Scotland, or if they are, fail to insist on reciprocal terms for us.

The great increase of applications for registration on the General Part of the Register since the Minister signed the Council's Rule 9-(1) (g) on May 26th, opening that part of the Register to untrained women, and of Dr. Chapple's modification thereof—which came into force on July 7th. At the meeting of the Council on June 15th, 28,593 applications were reported, 1,634 from May 26th to June 2nd. At the meeting of the Council on July 14th, 36,106 applications were reported, but 40,436 had actually been received. Thus, from May 26th, when the flood gates were opened to the untrained, to July 14th, upwards of thirteen thousand persons applied for registration, but no report was presented to the Council of how many of these applicants were untrained. Thousands, no doubt.

As we have pointed out, the Council realised that this wholesale swamping of the General Part of the Register by the untrained nullified the Supplementary Registers, and, in fact, nullified the Act so far as Existing Nurses were concerned. By its ineptitude the present G.N.C. has landed us all in the gutter together.

The Uniform Committee.

We note that our suggestion that instructions *re* uniform should be available in booklet form was adopted. This should be helpful to those nurses who wish to wear it. Now, however, that this uniform does not distinguish the trained from

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)