

ABUSE OF NURSES' UNIFORM.

THE CHAIRMAN then read a letter from the Chief Constables' Association stating that at a meeting of the Association held at Birmingham the question of the abuse of Nurses' Uniform for purposes of prostitution and other improper purposes was considered, and that the Hon. Secretary of the Association had been directed to write to the General Nursing Council and inquire what steps could be taken to prevent such abuse.

The letter was referred to the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee, who we hope will take this matter into serious consideration, with a view to assisting the Chief Constables' Association.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Before calling on the Chairman of the Finance Committee to present its report the CHAIRMAN pointed out that, if the Finance Committee desired to put a motion on the Agenda in a contrary sense to recommendations received from Committees, as the Rule at present stood such a motion must be received in time for insertion on the Agenda sent out ten clear days before the next meeting of the Council. That was sometimes impossible. Such a motion might be brought up as a matter of urgency, but the Rule operated awkwardly in case of the Finance Committee.

Report of Finance Committee.

Mr. ROBERT DONALDSON, Chairman of the Finance Committee, then moved that its Report be received. It stated that the Committee raised no objection to recommendations 20, 21, and 22 of the General Purposes Committee, *i.e.*, "that the salary of Miss Bowie be raised from £208 to £250 per annum, that the services of Miss Stones be retained for a further period of four weeks as from Monday, April 7th, 1924, and that the Easter Holiday for the office staff be the same as last year, *viz.*, from Good Friday, 18th April, to Tuesday, 22nd April.

The Committee further reported that they had considered the estimates of the expenses of the Examinations laid before them by the Chairman of Council.

The Committee recommended:—

"That a Nurse who has passed the Final Examination be admitted to the Register without further fee or formalities."

Consideration of this Recommendation was deferred to be proposed as an amendment to Recommendation 8 of the Education and Examination Committee.

MISS MUSSON inquired whether the proposal included the fee of 2s. 6d. for the Certificate of Registration.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that if the Recommendation were carried the cost of the certificate would be included in the Examination Fee.

DR. GOODALL inquired whether it had been decided what the certificate would be. He understood that it would not necessarily be as expensive as in the past. THE CHAIRMAN was understood to say that the form of certificate for future nurses was not yet settled.

Report of the Registration Committee.

MISS E. M. MUSSON, Chairman of the Registration Committee, moved that its Report be received.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

The Committee reported that the following have been forwarded to the Minister of Health:—

Applications received:—

During the week ending March 15th, 1924	69
" " " " 22nd "	54
" " " " 29th "	74

REGISTRATION TO MARCH 29TH, 1924

Applications received	42,693
Applications:—	
Approved by the Council to March 21st, 1924	36,908
For approval at meeting on April 11th	1,000
Ineligible to meeting on March 21st	466
Ineligible to be brought before meeting on April 11th	15
Withdrawn	402
Incomplete	3,902
	42,693

The following applications were considered *in camera* at the end of the meeting:—

General Register	950
Male	10
Mental	28
Mental Defectives	5
Sick Children's Register	6
Fever Register	1
	1,000

Report of the Education and Examination Committee.

MISS LLOYD STILL, Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee, presented its Report.

The Committee reported that it had considered the following extracts from a letter from the Ministry of Health forwarded to the Committee by the Council's Solicitor:—

Thank you for your letter of the 28th February. We have carefully considered the revised suggestions of the Nursing Council in regard to the evidence of character which they will require in the case of future nurses. We do not wish to raise any objections to the Council's proposals: (1) that this evidence should, in the first place, be obtained before the applicant is allowed to sit for the examination; (2) that if she applies for registration within one year of passing the examination she will not be required again to furnish evidence of character; and (3) that if she applies for registration more than a year after passing the examination she will be required to furnish such evidence.

May I take this opportunity of referring to three other points which we think should be covered in the new Rules?

(i) The new Rules ought to include a rule regulating the fees for the registration of future nurses. I had correspondence with Miss Riddell about this in July of last year, and she said that a Rule for Registration Fees could be included in the revised draft when submitted by the Council.

(ii) A Rule governing reciprocity with Scotland and Ireland should also be included.

(iii) There is one further point which has occurred to us, in looking over the draft Rules as they now stand. We are a little doubtful whether "training" is sufficiently defined in these Rules to satisfy the requirements of Section 3 (2) (a) of the Act, which refers to "prescribed training," and has given rise to some controversy. Mr. Maude suggests that at the end of Rule 5 a short definition clause should be added in the following terms:—

For the purposes of this Rule "training in a Training School" means training given at the school in the subjects prescribed by the Council as subjects for the examination which the applicant is required to pass.

The Committee in this connection made the following recommendations:—

(1) "That the Council agree to the insertion in Rule 2 (3) of words signifying that the candidate must also satisfy the Council as to character."

(2) "That provided the Finance Committee agree, the Registration Fee for future nurses be included in the five guineas payable for the examinations."

(3) That the Council agree to the definition of the word 'training' as proposed."

In connection with (2) Mr. Donaldson moved as an amendment the Recommendation of the Finance Committee

"That a Nurse who has passed the Final Examination be admitted to the Register without further fee or formality."

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