

tion for larceny of a woman named Hilda Hartley, described in the press as a registered and fully trained nurse.

The Committee recommended:—

"That since the Police Court report does not state that the person convicted claimed to be a registered nurse the Council take no action in the matter."

The Committee further reported that notification had been received from the Police Authorities of various convictions of nurses, but that none of the convicted persons had applied for registration.

The Report was approved.

Report of the Mental Nursing Committee.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE, Chairman, moved that its report be received.

The Report notified that the Committee had held a joint meeting with the Advisory Committee appointed by the Medico-Psychological Association, and passed the following resolution:—

"That the remote situation of many Mental Hospitals renders it advisable that facilities for holding the written examination on the spot should be freely afforded when application is made."

It was further stated that a small Sub-Committee was appointed to make suggestions to a future meeting in respect to suitable centres for the Final Oral and Practical Examination, but its composition was not reported.

The following Mental Hospitals were recommended for approval as Training Schools for Mental Nurses:—

FOR MALE AND FEMALE NURSES.

LONDON	... Peckham House, S.E.
PROVINCES:—	
Birmingham	... City Mental Hospital, Winson Green.
Brighton	... County Borough Mental Hospital, Hayward's Heath.
Cheshire	... County Mental Asylum, Chester.
Cornwall	... County Mental Hospital, Bodmin.
Glamorgan	... County Asylum, Bridgend.
Lancaster	... County Mental Hospital, Bracebridge Heath.
Monmouthshire	... Mental Hospital, Abergavenny.
Newcastle	... Mental Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle.
Newport	... Mental Hospital, Carleon, Mon.

FOR FEMALE NURSES ONLY.

LONDON Camberwell House, S.E.5.
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It was further reported that the authorities of a considerable number of Mental Hospitals had neglected to reply to the Questionnaire issued by the Council, and that the Committee is writing again to those Hospitals pointing out that unless replies are received the Hospitals cannot be recognised, thereby debarring the nurses in training there from registration.

Report of the General Purposes Committee.

The only business of this Committee has already been reported in connection with the Report of the Finance Committee.

The public business then concluded, and applications for registration were considered *in camera*.

POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER

THE OFFICE STAFF.

In connection with the letter of the Minister of Health in relation to the staffing arrangements in the office of the General Nursing Council, it is high time that the Ministry was afforded precise information as to the excessive staff now employed, and the output of work it accomplishes, in comparison with the General Nursing Councils for Scotland and Ireland, and the Central Midwives Board. The General Nursing Council for Scotland employs a Secretary, two typists, and a junior clerk; the Central Midwives Board

employs six clerical workers, and the same number was employed by the General Medical Council before it undertook the Dental Register.

If the work of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales were properly organised—which it never has been—it would be impossible to support the demand for the employment of a clerical staff of 43 persons, more especially when the Registration work is held up for months. In one instance we know of, a well-qualified certificated nurse has been waiting for a year and is not yet registered.

THE LABOUR PARTY AND THE HOSPITAL PROBLEM.

In connection with the invitation to the Council from the Executive Committee of the Labour Party to appoint four representatives to attend a Conference on the Hospital Problem, we are of opinion that the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession should be represented by Registered Nurses, not by medical men, who should be nominated by their own medical societies, which have ample representation. We presume none of the Medical Societies will appoint nurses to represent them.

This eager assumption of responsibility on the part of medical men on the Nurses' Council is one of its most deplorable weaknesses.

And why on earth should a parson be deputed to represent the Nursing Profession? Nothing could be more ridiculous. We regret that the Nurses' Representatives on the Council, other than the College group, did not claim the right of the Nursing Profession to speak for itself at the Labour Conference. Silence gives consent.

Moreover, why did the Council restrict representation to members connected with the Voluntary Hospitals? Surely hospital problems arise in connection with the nursing departments of Poor Law, Infectious, and Mental Hospitals, which now rank as Nurse Training Schools, recognised by the G.N.C.

THE EXAMINATION FEE.

Presumably now that the Council has decided "that a Nurse who has passed the final Examination be admitted to the Register without further fee or formality," the Rule requiring a Nurse to apply for Registration must be revised. It must, however, be remembered that Registration of Nurses is voluntary, not compulsory, as in the case of Midwives.

Although it is improbable that a Nurse who has passed the State Examination would be so ill-advised as not to desire to register, it is possible that such a case might arise.

The General Nursing Council has not the power, under the Act, to make Registration compulsory, although, let us hope, that not many years will elapse before Parliament makes it so. But the Council neither understands, nor conforms, to the Act.

THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION.

The present handsome certificate presented to Existing and Intermediate nurses, costs, we believe, £15 a thousand, *i.e.*, about 3½d. each, and the nurses thoroughly appreciate this document. We do not know how much more profit Dr. Goodall desires to make, as the nurses pay 2s. 6d. for it. We hope that the certificate granted to nurses, who pass the State Examination will be a document of which they can be proud, not colourless like the uniform, or mean and inartistic like the Badge selected on paper. The Registration Certificate will only need the alteration of a few words to bring it into order. Anything, apparently, is good enough for Registered Nurses in the opinion of the majority of the present Council, and we hope our nurse-representatives will not agree to any sort of a "scrap of paper" for future nurses.

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