

Nurses who are on the General Part, six shall be Matrons, three of whom, at the time of election, must be actively engaged in the education of Nurses."

The Ministry asks: (1) Who is to decide whether a candidate has this qualification?

The Committee suggests the qualification can be simply defined if framed as follows: "Who are, or have been, Matrons of approved complete Training Schools," and that they should be allotted to Metropolitan and Provincial, Voluntary and Poor Law Hospitals, as they were in the original Scheme. But it is not desirable that too long an interval should have elapsed since they were engaged in education, and the Committee proposes a limit of five years.

(Miss MUSSON here stated that it was necessary to provide for the election of Matrons on to the Council, firstly, because the Matron of a hospital had to arrange with the Governing Body for the training of the nurses, as that body must sanction any financial expenditure incurred, secondly, she had to co-ordinate the teaching given by the Medical Staff with that of others, and thirdly, as the Head Mistress of the Nursing School, she had to keep the balance between the theoretical and practical sides, and to maintain the ethical side of nursing.)

MISS COWLIN expressed the opinion that the Council might miss the services of splendid women if the five years' limit were adopted. She considered the most statesman-like and democratic method was to leave the election open, and to let the nurses elect whom they chose.

MISS VILLIERS supported this view.

MISS SEYMOUR YAPP thought it would be very unfortunate, in the event of a Matron holding the position of Chairman of the Council, if she were ineligible for re-election to a seat on the Council when she had acquired valuable experience in the capacity of Chairman.

(2) The next point raised by the Ministry was in regard to the Amendment passed by the Council that three of the six Matrons must be actively engaged in the education of nurses. The Registration Committee states that the Ministry asks how the Council intend to act supposing four Matrons, not actively engaged, obtained the four leading numbers of votes. The Committee state that the question will not arise if its Recommendation (5) be accepted.

RECOMMENDATION.

"That of the eleven Nurses to be elected to represent the Nurses who are on the General Part ('Registered Nurses') six shall be Matrons who at the time of the election are, or within five years' past have been, Matrons of approved complete Training Schools, of which—

Two shall be Metropolitan Voluntary Hospitals.

One shall be a Metropolitan Poor Law Hospital.

Two shall be Provincial Voluntary Hospitals.

One shall be a Provincial Poor Law Hospital.

On being put to the vote, there being 17 members of the Council, in addition to the Chairman, present, 11 voted, 6 against, and 5 for the Recommendation, which was, therefore, lost.

THE CHAIRMAN remarked that the Council had again landed itself in a mess, and with considerable asperity, pointed out the difficulties which would occur if members would not study the business to be transacted before coming to the Council Meeting, and did not choose to be prepared to vote upon it. They had had an important letter from the Minister of Health before them, and, as the Committee's recommendation was lost, the answer must be delayed.

(3) The third point raised by the Minister of Health was whether the Sister Tutor, for whom it is proposed that one place shall be reserved, might come from either a complete or an affiliated training school.

The Committee saw no reason to exclude an affiliated school, and recommended that the answer to paragraph (3) be in the affirmative.

RECIPROCITY WITH TRINIDAD.

It was reported that the Scheme of Training made by the Medical Board of Trinidad under the Provisions of Section 30 of the Medical Ordinance was considered, and was found to be in fact regulations for the licence of midwives. Reciprocity with Trinidad could, therefore, not be considered.

DELAYS IN REGISTRATION.

It was reported that correspondence, referred by the Council to the Committee, with the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, with reference to delay in registering certain applicants who had applied in 1923, had been considered, with a letter from the Chief Officer, Mental Hospitals Department, London County Council, together with a list of 30 names of Existing Mental Nurses who, it was stated, had "not yet heard the result of their applications," a letter from Miss Wiese, containing the names of four nurses who applied in June and July, 1923, and a letter from the *Nursing Mirror*, with list of three names, with the Committee's comment in each instance.

REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM THE REGISTER.

The Committee reported they had considered lists of names of nurses who had failed to pay their retention fees. (a) Nurses who, for various reasons, desired that their names be withdrawn from the Register:—General Register, 35, Mental, 1, Fever, 5=41. (b) 835 who had failed to pay in spite of two reminders:—General Register, 735, Male, 3, Mental, 28, Sick Children's 28, Fever 41=835.

It was recommended, and agreed, that the names of the 41 and 835 nurses respectively be removed from the Register.

APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION.

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

Applications received:—

During the week ending May 10th, 1924	..	88
" " " " 17th, "	..	77
" " " " 24th, "	..	63
" " " " 31st, "	..	64
" " " " June 7th, "	..	92

REGISTRATION TO JUNE 7TH, 1924.

Applications received	..	..	..	..	43,426
Applications:—					
Approved by the Council to May 16th, 1924	..	..	..	..	38,742
For approval at meeting on June 20th	..	..	..	..	656
Ineligible to meeting on May 16th	..	..	..	..	497
Ineligible to be brought before meeting on June 20th	35
Withdrawn	516
Incomplete	2,980
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					43,426

The following applications were considered *in camera* at the close of the Meeting:—

General Register	..	..	..	..	583
Male	..	..	..	..	7
Mental	34
Mental Defectives	5
Sick Children's Register	10
Fever Register	17
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					656

Report of the Education and Examination Committee.

MISS LLOYD STILL, Chairman of the Education and Examination Committee, presented the Report and moved that it be received.

The Committee reported that it was decided that the Optional Examinations should be held at the following Centres:—

General Nurses—London, Birmingham and Manchester.
Fever Nurses—Liverpool.
Sick Children's Nurses—London.

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