

CHIEF CONSTABLES' ASSOCIATION,  
Newcastle, Staffs.,

April 8th, 1924.

DEAR MADAM,

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Chief Constables' Association (Cities and Boroughs of England and Wales) held at Birmingham on the 3rd inst., attention was called to the fact that from time to time cases come to the notice of the Police of women who improperly wear the dresses of nurses as a cloak for offences against the law, such as, for example, prostitution, and also in other ways behave in a manner likely to bring discredit upon the uniform.

A resolution was passed that the Hon. Secretary should write to the Registrar of the General Nursing Council with a view of seeing if the Council could suggest anything which would minimise or obviate this practice.

I should therefore esteem it a favour if you would kindly bring this matter before the next meeting of your Council, and inform me of the result.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM FORSTER,  
Chief Constable, Hon. Secretary  
Chief Constables' Association.

The Registrar,  
General Nursing Council.

A reply was sent in the following sense :—

DEAR SIR,—

In reply to your letter of April 8th, I am instructed to say that the General Nursing Council, by the Nurses' Registration Act, is charged with the duty of admitting nurses to the Register, and by Clause 8 of that Act anyone who represents herself as registered on any branch of the Register can, if convicted, be heavily fined. If such an accusation was laid before us against any person, we should be ready to take action. We have a Registered Uniform, and it might be held that the wearing of that Uniform would afford grounds for prosecution. But registration is not compulsory, and we have no jurisdiction over unregistered nurses, nor any power to prosecute a person merely for pretending to be a nurse.

Yours faithfully,  
REGISTRAR.

The Report was approved.

#### Report of the Mental Nursing Committee.

On the Report of the Mental Nursing Committee, moved by Dr. BEDFORD PIERCE, Chairman, the following Mental Hospitals were recognised as Training Schools for Male and Female Mental Nurses :—Denbigh, North Wales Counties Mental Hospital; Fareham, Knowle Mental Hospital; Northampton, St. Andrew's Hospital; Salisbury, The Old Manor; Warlingham, Croydon Mental Hospital.

#### Report of the General Purposes Committee.

MISS COX DAVIES, Chairman, moved that the Report of the General Purposes Committee be received. Its only Recommendations have already been dealt with in connection with the Report of the Finance Committee.

#### Report of the Uniform Committee.

MISS S. A. VILLIERS, Chairman, moved that the Report of the Uniform Committee be received.

On its recommendation, seven more firms in London and the Provinces were authorised to make the Registered Nurses' Uniform.

The Book of Uniform Rules, as submitted, was approved for issue to all Registered Nurses, and the Booklet of Instructions for issue to all Registered Nurses, and to the firms approved by the Council, together with the Permit to be issued to Nurses who wish to obtain the State uniform.

The Form of Agreement to be signed by the firms making the Uniform was also approved. The price of the hat-band was fixed at 2s., and the charge to tailors for the Woven Badge was fixed at 4s. per gross.

The public business was then concluded, and the Press withdrew.

## POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

### THE 1924 REGISTER.

For the first time, the Register of Nurses, owing to the initiative of the College of Nursing, Ltd., contains the names of nurses registered without hospital training.

### FINANCE.

It is high time that the Finance Committee issued to Registered Nurses a plain statement of the amount the Council has received in fees since its establishment, the manner in which these have been dealt with, and the estimated income and expenditure at the present time. In the opinion of many persons well qualified to judge, it is heading straight for bankruptcy. It has saddled itself with a derelict mansion, for which it has paid £5,500, and will cost over £5,000 more to put in order; the upkeep also must be enormous. It has abolished the Registration Fees which were a sure source of income. It maintains a huge staff, its monthly expenditure on stamps amounts to hundreds of pounds, and we note that in the first Examination, for which 1,785 candidates entered, the claims of the Examiners alone amounted to £2,100.

### THE ELECTION SCHEME.

The Debate on the Scheme for the Election of Registered Nurses showed the Council to be hopelessly at variance as to the best method. The Chairman of the Registration Committee moved its recommendation, drafted by the Chairman of Council, but stated that she did not approve of it, and no less than five motions and amendments, placed on the Agenda, or moved in the room, showed the wide divergence of opinion which exists on this important question, concerning which the Minister of Health, fifteen months ago, asked for a considered opinion. Ultimately Miss Sparshott obtained a majority vote for her proposal, by which six of the 11 seats must be filled by Matrons of approved Complete Training Schools, and of which only two are open, without restrictions, to all Nurses on the General Part of the Register. It remains to be seen whether Parliament will approve such a proposal.

In regard to the claim of the College Matrons to a majority vote for Matrons among the Direct Representatives of the Nurses on the General Nursing Council, on the ground that they supervise the training of pupil nurses, it must not be forgotten that the Council is not only the Education Authority but the Disciplinary Body of the Nursing Profession, and that it is unprecedented for employers, or their representatives, which the Matrons really are, to claim to rule it, and a claim which we hope a Labour Government will disallow. As the chief salaried officers of the Nursing Departments of Hospitals, it is their duty to promote the interests of the Committees. It must further be remembered that those whom they now supervise are principally pupils in training, and it is arrogant and intolerable to claim that they should have a secure and majority vote among the Nurses' Representatives, in the control and discipline of Nurses, who have passed out of the Training Schools, during the whole of their professional careers. Miss Musson's argument that if the Council does not allot the places, the Nurses' Associations will do so, does not, in our opinion, strengthen the Matrons' claim.

### THE RETENTION FEE.

We do not wonder that Nurses dislike paying the Retention Fee, when just on seven months of the year have passed before the publication of the Register for which this payment is made, and next month they will again be circularised for the payment of another 2s. 6d. They must, however, remember that the payment of this fee is legally their duty, and that they should comply with the Rules in this particular, even if the Council does not carry out its obligation of issuing the printed Register.

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