

At the July meeting the Chairman of the Registration Committee reported not only on the correspondence with the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council, but also that a letter had been received from the Chief Officer of the Mental Hospitals' Department, London County Council, giving 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 a Member of the Council (Miss Wiese) containing the names of four nurses who applied in June and July of last year, and three other names, with the Committee's comment in each case.

#### RECOGNITION OF A NURSING HOME AS A TRAINING SCHOOL.

In recognising a Private Nursing Home (St. Chad's Hospital, Birmingham), for the purpose of a Training School in conjunction with a public hospital, the Council infringed two important principles. First, that sick persons who pay fees which command skilled nursing labour have a right to it, and should not be attended by pupils in training, and secondly, they thereby gave their official support to the undercutting of the earning capacity of Registered Nurses, by permitting unskilled and cheap labour to be brought into economic competition with them. Yet Miss Bushby was the only member of the Council to protest against these wrongs.

#### THE PROTECTION OF THE SICK PUBLIC.

For the first time the Council has had to exercise the Disciplinary Powers conferred on it by Parliament to remove from the Register a nurse convicted of a felony, and, that most odious form of crime, of obtaining admission to the houses of sick people in the confidential capacity of a nurse, and then systematically robbing them. As the Chairman of the Bench at the Surrey Quarter Sessions, where she was convicted, pointed out: "This woman has been practising this system of thieving for over a year. Commencing in December, 1922, it has been going on month after month. In different places where the prisoner has filled positions of trust, she has availed herself of these opportunities to steal property, and valuable property, too."

The duty of the Council in such a case is to protect the sick public, and also the honour and reputation of Registered Nurses, and truly and impartially to administer justice, and we are glad that in spite of a certain amount of misplaced sympathy with the offender they decided to do so. They could, indeed, not do otherwise.

The need for the protection of the sick public from women who obtained admission to the houses of sick persons in the guise of trained nurses, was one which much impressed the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed in 1904 and 1905 "to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses." Mrs. Bedford Fenwick handed in to the Committee a list of 100 nursing scandals compiled for its benefit, which so startled the Committee that the Chairman asked whether it was the first time the document had seen the light, and whether she wished it to be put on the Notes. Mrs. Fenwick replied that she would certainly take the fullest responsibility. Eventually the document was published by the Committee in its Report, but with numbers substituted for names.

Until the passing of the Nursing Acts there was no means of removing women who had proved unworthy of trust from the accredited ranks of the Nursing Profession, and when they came out of prison they could resume the uniform of the trained nurse, and once more prey upon the public, and bring disrepute on reputable nurses. Few of them were trained nurses. But all professions require disciplinary powers, and occasionally (we hope in the case of the Nursing Profession it will be very occasionally) it is their duty to exercise them.

The firm of Franklands, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, E.C., have been appointed official contractors for the Registered Nurses' Uniform.

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCTING EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the arrangements for conducting the State Examinations made by the General Nursing Council for Scotland:—

#### I.—EXAMINATIONS.

There are two Examinations—

1. A Preliminary Examination; and
2. A Final Examination.

(1) The Preliminary Examination will be the same for all Parts of the Register. It will consist of

1. Written Papers; and
2. Oral and Practical Examinations.

No Candidate shall pass the Examination unless she satisfies the Examiners as to her competence in both the written and oral and practical parts of the Examination. The marks for the written Examination will be equal to the marks of the oral and practical Examinations, but irrespective of the marks which a Candidate may have obtained in her written papers and oral Examination, she must obtain a pass mark in the practical Examination in order to qualify.

*Written Examination.*—This shall consist of papers on—

(1) Elementary Anatomy and Physiology. Time allowed, 2 hours. Paper to consist of five questions, two to be on Anatomy, two on Physiology, and the fifth to be either on Anatomy or Physiology in the option of the Examiners. Of these five questions, the Candidate must answer four, two of these to be on Anatomy and two on Physiology.

(2) Hygiene and Elementary Theory and Practice of Nursing, Part 1. Time allowed, 2 hours. Paper to consist of five questions, two to be on Hygiene, two on Elementary Theory and Practice of Nursing, and the fifth to be either on Hygiene or Elementary Theory and Practice of Nursing in the option of the Examiners. Of these five questions, the Candidate must answer four, two of these to be on Hygiene and two on Elementary Theory and Practice of Nursing.

There will be an oral Examination on Elementary Anatomy and Physiology and on Hygiene and a Practical Examination on the Theory and Practice of Nursing, Part 1 (the latter to be conducted by a Registered Nurse).

(2) *Final Examination.*—Details in regard to this will be issued later.

#### II.—EXAMINATION CENTRES.

The Examinations (both written and oral and practical) will be held at the following places:—

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen.

In addition, the Written Examination will also be held in any place at which there are at least twenty-five Candidates (counting both Parts of the Examinations for all Parts of the Register), providing suitable premises in which to hold the Examination and a suitable Examination Supervisor can be arranged. The first Preliminary Examination will be held in April, 1924; and the first Final Examination in October, 1925. These Examinations will be held quarterly afterwards in the months of January, April, July and October.

#### III.—GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Written Examination will be held on the same date at each of the centres. The Oral and Practical Examinations will begin 10 days later and the four centres above named will be visited in rotation.

Candidates desiring to enter for the Examinations must apply for an official entry form, which must be completed and returned to the Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland, 13, Melville Street, Edinburgh, by Registered Post, at least four weeks before the date on which the Examination will commence.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)