

MISS DU SAUTOY asked who the officious person was who drew the attention of the Minister of Health to Miss Wiese's letter.

THE CHAIRMAN said he did so himself, but added that the paper was on the table when he went to the Ministry.

MISS DU SAUTOY expressed the opinion that the Council should do its own business.

Report of the Finance Committee.

The Report of the Finance Committee which was presented by Mr. Donaldson, notified that the Committee had met once, and that Mr. Donaldson was elected as its Chairman.

The Recommendations of the Committee included (1) that the sum of £100 for stamps, £25 for Insurance Stamps, and £15 for Petty Cash be allowed; (2) that the action of the Committee, in accepting the estimate of Messrs. Walter Brady & Co. for printing the Regulations for the conduct of the State Examinations and other documents, be approved.

The Committee also reported that a communication had been received from the Howard de Walden Trustees waiving restrictions 3 and 5 in connection with the house 20, Portland Place, and that the offer of £5,500 for the house had not been renewed and accepted, and asking for approval of this action.

On this item Miss WIESE raised the question as to whether the offer had not been withdrawn and whether the Finance Committee had authority to renew it without further reference to the Council.

THE CHAIRMAN said that at the January meeting a letter was authorised to be sent in reply to one from Sir Ernest Hatch, stating that Restrictions 3 and 5 prohibited the Council from further considering the purchase of the house. The Committee acted under the authority given at the December meeting. (Presumably this was the business considered by the Finance Committee *in camera* at that meeting.)

MISS WIESE objected to the Nurses' money being expended in this way.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the money was not the Nurses', but the Council's.

MISS WIESE said that the money was provided by the Nurses, and Mental Nurses resented this expenditure. She made this protest on their behalf.

The Committee recommended that the Chairman of the Council, the Finance Committee, the General Purposes Committee, and Miss Bremner be appointed a sub-Committee to make the necessary arrangements with regard to the purchase of the house, and to consult an architect with reference to the necessary repairs and decorations, and to obtain estimates for these.

The Committee raised no objection to the following Recommendations:—

Recommendation 12 of the Education Committee that the following fees be paid to (1) Presiding Examiners. A fee of two guineas a day for two sessions. Where the examination only lasts for one session, a fee of one guinea. (2) Invigilators.—A fee of one guinea a day of two sessions. When the examination only lasts for one session, a fee of half a guinea.

Report of the Registration Committee.

The Report of the Registration Committee, presented by Miss MUSSON, stated that she had been elected its Chairman.

The Report of this Committee was principally concerned with the reply of the Council to the letter from the Ministry of Health, dated March 19th, 1923, referring to Major Barnett's Motion in the House of Commons, on Wednesday, March 14th, that an Address be presented to His Majesty praying that the Scheme for the Election of Registered

Nurses on to the Council, made under Paragraph 4 of the Schedule to the Nurses' Registration Act, should be modified. The Minister stated that he undertook to request the General Nursing Council to consider the amendment proposed by Major Barnett, and to ask the Council to draw up and submit to him such alterations as they may be prepared to make, within the next twelve months.

THE SCHEME OF ELECTION OF REGISTERED NURSES TO THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Report stated that the Registration Committee had considered the letter from the Ministry of Health, dated March 19th, 1923, concerning which it presented the following Report:—

REPORT.

The amendments proposed by Major Barnett are concerned with three main points:—

1. The Scheme of Representation on the Council.
2. The liability of the Returning Officer.
3. The period within which voting papers may be returned. It will be convenient to deal with them in reverse order, leaving the most important to the last.

3. The proposal to extend the period of return of voting papers from at least fourteen to at least twenty-one days is recommended for adoption in future elections.

2. Regulation 8 (2) of the Scheme of the last Election was inserted on the advice of the Ministry of Health, which informed us that such a provision was usual in elections of this kind.

Elections conducted by post with the complication of an identification envelope signed by the voter, which is necessary to avoid fraud, are liable to accidents arising from failure of the postal authorities, and from other causes.

It may well be that some verbal amendments may be required, but it seems that some limitation of liability is necessary in order to relieve the Returning Officer and the Council from the burden of frivolous objections.

In addition it seems advisable that the Returning Officer should not in the future be a member of the Council, but an outside official selected and paid by the Council for the purpose of each election.

The principles on which the Scheme was drafted were—
(a) That the Council should contain an adequate number of persons familiar with the education of nurses, the regulation of which is one of the main duties laid upon the Council by the Act.

(b) That there should be representation of all interests.

In pursuance of these principles, eleven places were reserved for the representation of the General Part of the Register, and of these, six places were reserved for Matrons, representing education. Five places were given to representation of the Supplementary Parts of the Register, which, being small minorities, would otherwise have run the risk of not being represented at all. The total of elected members being sixteen, five places remained open, and these were allotted to representatives of nurses registered on the General Part of the Register.

These places were expressly reserved for nurses who were not Matrons of Hospitals with Training Schools, because the Council considered that, if they were not so reserved, it was probable that such Matrons would be elected to them also. In pursuance of the principle that all interests should be represented, it was provided that one of these five should be a "Private Nurse," and one a nurse engaged in Public Health Work or District Nursing. The sole proviso in respect of the remaining three was that they should not be or have been Matrons of Hospitals with training schools attached.

It is advisable that these principles should be maintained. It is undesirable that the Council should be almost entirely composed of Matrons, as it probably would be if Major

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)