

The total of candidates who entered for the four Preliminary Examinations, held in July and October, 1924, and January and April, 1925, was 6,038. Of these 245 were absent, 4,905 passed, and 888 failed. The percentage of failures was 15.2.

The Report as a whole was approved.

Report of the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee.

Miss A. M. BUSHBY, Chairman of the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee, moved that the Report be received.

The Committee proposed that the postponed consideration of its Report of April 24th be taken *in camera*.

The Report was approved.

Report of the Mental Nursing Committee.

In the absence of DR BEDFORD PIERCE, Chairman of the Mental Nursing Committee, Mr. R. Donaldson presented its Report. The Committee recommended:—

"That the following Mental Hospital be recognised as a Training School for Male and Female Mental Nurses. Gloucester—Barnwood House."

The Report was approved.

Report of the General Purposes Committee.

In the absence of MISS COX DAVIES, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, MISS WIESE presented its Report. The recommendations of the Committee have already been dealt with in connection with the Report of the Finance Committee.

MISS MUSSON explained that the reason for the recommendations as to the clerks' holidays was that clerks on the regular staff have three weeks' holidays, on the temporary staff two weeks, but as some of the temporary staff have been employed for over two years it was thought right that they should have three weeks.

The report was approved.

Report of the Uniform Committee.

MISS VILLIERS, Chairman of the Uniform Committee, moved that its Report be received. She reported the names of a number of firms had been approved to supply the Uniform of State Registered Nurses.

She further reported that the Committee had considered a letter from the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council (Northern Ireland) asking permission to adopt the Uniform and Braid of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. It recommended:—

"That a reply be sent in the following sense to the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council:—

"That this Council offers no objection to the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council adopting the same Uniform, provided they adopt a registered button, and a registered badge for the hat band."

With the substitution of the word "distinctive" for "registered," before "button" and "badge," the recommendation was approved.

The Report was approved.

The Public Business then concluded, and the press withdrew.

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

The questions set in the Preliminary Examination of Nurses held under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, on April 21st, 1925, of which the results were announced at the meeting of the General Nursing Council held on May 15th, were under the headings, "Anatomy and Physiology," and "Hygiene and Nursing."

The time allowed for each paper was one and a-half hours, and the direction in each case was: "Only three questions are to be answered, one of which must be taken from Section A and one from Section B, the remaining question to be selected by the candidate from Section A or B."

POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS RE PRESCRIBED TRAINING, AND ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES.

It is a most extraordinary fact that although Major Barnett received an answer from the Minister of Health on May 7th, that he was "prepared to recommend the appointment of a Select Committee to examine the Election Scheme, and to report upon the desirability of making the adoption of the Council's syllabus of training compulsory," there was complete silence on the subject at the meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales held on May 15th at 20, Portland Place, W. Was it ignorance, or did the Council desire to maintain this silence? If the Registrar does not study the Parliamentary Debates, or announcements in the press, surely some members of the Council must do so. We refer our readers to the question and answer printed on page 118, and to the notice under the heading of the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council on page 124.

A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE CHAIR.

It is noteworthy that at the G.N.C. Meeting on May 15th, a Registered Nurse (Miss E. M. Musson) in the absence of the Chairman, was, for the first time, voted to the chair. She conducted the business with expedition, and the amenities of debate were certainly no losers thereby. Let us hope that at an early date the anomaly of having either a lay or medical chairman for the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession will be a thing of the past. Had this right been accorded to the profession, as it should have been, when the Council was first nominated, the present official bureaucracy so detrimental to the dignity and harmony of the Council's work, would never have been established. We are glad to note that several members of the Council are in sympathy with our demand that a Registered Nurse should preside over the deliberations of the Governing Body of her own profession.

NO REGISTER.

While the Council strictly remove from both the inscribed and the printed Register the name of any nurse who has not paid the required Retention Fee, the 1925 Register still remains unpublished. It has puzzled us in the past to know why the inscribed Register should be thus defaced when any post may bring to the offices of the Council a postal order and an application for restoration. Is it because there is no up-to-date printed Register from which the name can be removed?

There is also a very indignant feeling among nurses inasmuch as a nurse may have paid £2 2s. for registration in January, 1924, and her name may not have appeared in any printed Register in May, 1925. With the huge staff of officials for which the Nursing Profession pays, at the Headquarters of the Council, the Register should be out within a few weeks of the beginning of the year.

We also note that with this staff at her disposal the Registrar is apparently unable to pass through more than about 500 applications a month, and that on May 15th there were still nearly 2,000 incomplete.

RULES FOR FUTURE NURSES.

We have elicited that the Rules for future nurses are now laid before Parliament, but this fact was not officially communicated to the Council as it certainly should have been.

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