

MISS COX-DAVIES expressed the same opinion.

MISS WIESE said in most cases it would be signed by the Matron.

MISS ALSOP said some Matrons did not do so.

MR. R. DONALDSON said that the Medical Superintendent was the supreme authority in a Mental Hospital, and some Medical Superintendents would not delegate this duty to subordinates (the Matrons).

MISS VILLIERS thought that the Medical Superintendent should sign the forms of the men nurses but not of the women.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE said that for some thirty years he had signed the forms of entrants for the Examination of the Medico-Psychological Association from the Retreat, York.

THE CHAIRMAN suggested the introduction of the words "or by the" after "Medical Superintendent" and before "Matron."

With this amendment the Committee's Recommendation was put to the vote, when four (Miss Bushby, Miss du Sautoy, Miss Cox-Davies, and another) voted against it.

The adoption of the Amended Form was therefore carried.

The Report as a whole was then adopted.

#### Report of the General Purposes Committee.

MISS COX-DAVIES, Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, moved that "my" Report be received.

The Committee reported that on August 29th and 30th, 1924, 32,276 Notices were issued to Registered Nurses reminding them that their retention fees were due on September 30th, 1924, and that 2,509 nurses did not reply; that final Notices have been issued to these nurses, and that the extra work involved has been very considerable. In addition, changes of address to the number of 11,000, also many marriages and deaths have been notified, which entails many alterations in the Register both manuscript and printed.

The Report was adopted.

#### Report of the Uniform Committee.

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

The Committee reported that applications had been received from tailors for permission to reproduce the block designs of the State Uniform. It recommended:—

"That as a period of three months has now elapsed since the designs were first published, this permission be granted to approved tailors who make application."

That several applications had been received from Nurses desirous of obtaining the State Registered Hat locally. It recommended:—

"That permission be granted to Messrs. Henry Heath, Ltd., to appoint agents in the large towns to display the Uniform Hat to enable Nurses to be properly fitted."

On the recommendation of the Committee 25 more firms were authorised to make the State Uniform.

The Report as a whole was adopted.

#### Motion.

MISS WIESE moved in accordance with notice:—

"That, as the Teachers of Training Schools were not aware of the scope of the Preliminary Examination, the candidates who failed in the October Examination be permitted to sit for a further examination, for the same fee."

In moving the resolution, Miss Wiese said:—

"I am moving this resolution because I feel that this Council is not sufficiently protecting the nurses in training, particularly the mental nurse, whose duties during the first year of training differ so widely from those of the general nurse, and not only have we failed to issue a separate practical chart to guide the teachers of training schools, but it is obvious that unfair questions were asked at the

October examination. Possibly we shall now see the injustice of issuing an advisory instead of a compulsory Syllabus of Training. It may be argued that we shall establish a precedent by passing this motion. I would suggest that if the Council interprets the Act correctly, a similar concession need not be applied for. As to the cost, the fees more than covered the cost of the examination."

The resolution had no seconder, and was, therefore, not debated.

The public business then concluded, and the press withdrew.

## POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

### COMPLAINTS AS TO QUESTIONS AT THE OCTOBER EXAMINATION.

It will be noted in the Report of the Education and Examination Committee it is stated that complaints as to questions asked at the October Preliminary Examination, referred by the Council on November 21st, were considered, and that action had been taken where necessary. *What* action was not reported to the Council, nor was any mention made of the necessity for conforming to the Nurses' Registration Act, and the enforcement of a Compulsory Syllabus of Training. Yet this is fundamental and, until such a Syllabus is adopted, every probationer who fails at an examination has a justifiable grievance against the Council.

We note an announcement in the press that in a communication to the Kingston (Surrey) Guardians, the General Nursing Council wrote stating that it was regretted that no action could be taken regarding the statements made that questions on subjects outside the Syllabus had been asked at the recent examination, as the Committee (presumably the Education and Examination Committee.—Ed.) had no evidence of the questions asked. (If so, it should have made inquiries.) The Guardians have decided to ask the Council to receive a deputation from the Board on the subject.

### THE CANDIDATE'S CERTIFICATE OF INSTRUCTION.

It will be noted that considerable discussion took place as to the form of the Candidate's Certificate of Instruction. We are of opinion that whatever form is adopted it should be recommended by the Mental Nursing Committee set up by the Council.

### THE UNIFORM HAT.

We note, with astonishment, that, on the recommendation of the Uniform Committee, the Council has delegated its duty in connection with the approval of firms for supplying the uniform hat, and has granted permission to the firm of hatters which has so far had a monopoly for supplying the hats "to appoint agents in the large towns to display the uniform hat, to enable nurses to be properly fitted."

We are of opinion that it might, with equal propriety, authorize one dress house to appoint the firms to make the uniforms.

Yet numbers of dress houses and tailors have been authorized to make the uniform, and we are of opinion that equal facilities should be granted in the matter of hats.

Moreover, for some inexplicable reason, those firms who supply the uniform, may supply the storm caps, but not the hats, with the result that many nurses, who are busy women, buy the storm cap, and wear it on all occasions, and do not procure a hat.

We understand that at least 10,000 nurses have applied for permits to wear the uniform, so presumably we shall become familiar with it. At present we have only seen three nurses wearing it in the streets of London, and the combination of coat-frock and storm cap in London streets, was grotesque, and as a State Registered uniform sadly inadequate.

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