

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The Fifty-fourth Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on Friday, January 16th, at the Ministry of Health, S.W., Sir Wilmot P. Herringham, K.C.M.G., C.B., Chairman of the Council, presiding.

Minutes.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were signed as correct.

Election of Chairman of Council.

SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM then vacated the chair, which was taken by SIR JENNER VERRALL, while the election of the chairman for the ensuing year took place.

SIR JENNER VERRALL said that Sir Wilmot Herringham had been nominated by Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Cox Davies, Miss Musson, and Mr. Donaldson, and there being no other nominations Sir Wilmot was elected for another term of office.

MISS MUSSON, seconded by MISS LLOYD STILL, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his services during the past year, and Miss Musson said that in asking him to take the chair she wished to express her view that the Council was fortunate in having in Sir Wilmot a man who was not only able to devote so much time to the work of the Council but who was thoroughly conversant with the duties of a chairman and the conduct of public business.

THE CHAIRMAN then once more assumed the reins, "that business being over," with an interpolation as to being "properly grateful," apparently as an afterthought.

Vote of Condolence.

Before the business of the meeting began, Mr. R. DONALDSON drew attention to the death of a former member of the Council, Mr. Tom Christian, and moved that a letter of condolence be sent to his wife and family. This was agreed by a rising vote, and the Registrar was directed accordingly.

Correspondence.

THE CHAIRMAN reported the following letter from the Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses:—

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES,
New York, U.S.A.

December 11th, 1924.

DEAR MISS RIDDELL,

The Committee on Program of the International Council of Nurses is very eager to have the assistance of an English Nurse thoroughly familiar and highly interested in the Nursing Legislation of England and Wales at the International Congress which is to be held in Helsingfors, Finland, July 20th-25th, 1925. Would it be possible for you yourself to go, or, if that is impossible, will you be so kind as to suggest somebody who could ably represent the subject "The Problem of Reciprocity" at a General Session, Friday morning, July 24th?

A general discussion with prominent nurses from different countries will be arranged after the paper has been read in order to obtain different opinions and points of view. This discussion will probably be led by one nurse from the United States of America, and one from Australia, each speaking five minutes. Comtesse d'Ursel, Secretary of the Belgium Nursing Federation, has consented to preside. The Committee has allotted twenty minutes for each paper. At the Congress there will be given opportunity for free discussion at all meetings, and the Council, realising the value of this, is anxious to have as many as possible prepared to partake.

As soon as the tentative program has been worked out in the latter part of January we shall be glad to forward a copy to you.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and trusting that you will be interested, I am,

Faithfully Yours,

(Signed) CHRISTIANE REIMANN,
Secretary, Committee on Program.

MISS MARIAN S. RIDDELL,

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

THE CHAIRMAN stated that he had asked the Auditor of the Ministry of Health, who audits the accounts of the Council, whether the Council had any power to pay the expenses of such a representative, and the answer was in the negative. If the Council had no power to pay expenses it was obvious that the only reply it could make was that it was not in its power to appoint an official delegate.

DR. GOODALL expressed surprise at the ruling of the Chairman that because the Council could not pay the expenses of a delegate it could not appoint one.

The question was referred to the Registration Committee for consideration and report.

Statement by Chairman of Council.

The following statement was presented by the Chairman of the Council:—

The Council can be congratulated on a year of continued progress. The number on the Register, which was 32,282 on December 31st, 1923, is now 42,188, showing an increase of 9,906.

In July last the first State Examinations were held, viz., the first of the Preliminary Examinations, and the Optional Examination which had been promised to Intermediate Nurses. The Preliminary Examination was repeated in October and will be continued quarterly for the future. These Examinations were carried out with astonishing perfection of arrangement. Not a single hitch occurred in the allocation of Centres, in the provision of equipment, or in the co-ordination of examiners. Very great credit is to be attributed to the staff of the office for the success obtained. The Council also owes a great debt of gratitude to the Training Schools which all over the Kingdom have, by their co-operation and by the facilities they have afforded to the Council, much contributed towards the success of the Examinations. It is inevitable that with so large a body of examiners and so scattered an examination a small number of complaints should be received. Candidates will always mistake the intentions of examiners, and will always suppose that a single question unanswered was what caused their failure. The Council is to be congratulated that the complaints have been of a negligible character.

The Council has issued its third yearly Register and the material for the fourth is now in the hands of the printer. The Register is a great burden upon the finances of the Council, not only from the fact that in the coming issue there will be 12,298 alterations to be made, or in other words 29 per cent. of the total number of names, but also on account of the vast labour which the migratory character of its members entails. No less than 541 names have eluded all the efforts of the office to trace them, and are, therefore, perforce excluded from the coming issue of the Register.

The same difficulty attends the collection of the Retention Fees, which in the past year has taken 2,108 clerks' days to complete, or 8 clerks for 266 days.

The Council has, during the past year, been forced to decide to move its quarters from lack of the necessary space, and adopting the cheapest method of housing open to it has taken on a lease of 993 years a house in Portland Place. It is hoped that the Council will be able to move into its new quarters during the month of February.

Report of the Finance Committee.

MR. R. DONALDSON, Chairman of the Finance Committee, moved that the Report be received.

On the recommendation of the Committee the Bills and Claims submitted for payment were approved and the sum of £60 for Stamps and £15 for Petty Cash allowed. Also the payment, in accordance with the Architect's Certificate of the sum of £500 (making £3,500 to date), being the fifth instalment for work done at 20, Portland Place, to Messrs.

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