

THE STATE EXAMINATIONS.

The attention of the authorities of Training Schools for nurses and prospective candidates is drawn to important changes in the Scheme for Conducting the State Examinations and the Regulations for the Conduct of the State Examinations which were passed by the General Nursing Council at their Meeting on November 20th.

The changes made enable a candidate who has satisfied the Examiners in one "subject" of an examination, but who has failed to satisfy the Examiners in another part or parts of the Examination, to be credited with the subject in which she has satisfied the Examiners, and such a candidate will not be required to take any subject with which she has been credited on re-entering for the Examination.

The revised scheme for the Conduct of the Examinations will come into force at the Examinations in February, 1926.

Revised copies of the Scheme for Conducting the State Examinations and the Regulations for the Conduct of the State Examinations are now being printed and copies will be available at an early date.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, November 18th.

NURSING HOMES.

In the House of Commons on November 18th:—

Mr. G. HURST asked the Minister of Health whether he will now appoint a Committee to inquire into the desirability of legislation for the purpose of registering and supervising nursing homes?

Sir. K. WOOD: In view of the present pressure of work and the difficulty of completing the inquiry before the end of the Session it is not proposed to proceed with the appointment of a Select Committee this year, but steps will be taken to set up the Committee at the earliest practicable date in the next Session.

Monday, November 30th.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY (NURSES).

Colonel Day asked the Minister of Health whether it is contemplated appealing to hospitals and Poor Law institutions to supply a corps of trained nurses from the trained staff of such hospitals and institutions which could be used in case of national emergency?

Mr. N. Chamberlain: No, Sir. Steps are, however, being taken to secure that the additional nursing staff required on mobilisation by the combatant Services should be obtained with a minimum of disturbance of the voluntary and Poor Law hospitals.

GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOLS (Nursing Lectures).

Colonel Day asked the President of the Board of Education if he will consider the advisability of instituting lectures on nursing subjects to the upper forms of girls' secondary schools in order to attract to the nursing profession the type of young person so necessary?

The President of the Board of Education (Lord Eustace Percy): I think this must be left to the discretion of the headmistresses of the schools. I have myself drawn attention to the responsibilities of our schools in this matter, but I am afraid the problems which arise in this connection will not be solved by the giving of lectures.

Mr. J. Beckett: Is the Noble Lord aware that the nursing profession is already underpaid and overcrowded, and that vocational training of this kind is not required?

The General Nursing Council for Scotland reminds Nurses whose Registration Certificates are dated before January 1st, 1925, that a Retention Fee of 2s. 6d. fell due on September 30th, 1925. This should be remitted at once to the Registrar, General Nursing Council for Scotland, 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, accompanied by the Registration Certificate for endorsement.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

(Concluded from Page 238.)

Below we give a brief *Résumé* of the Minutes of Evidence given by witnesses before the Select Committee appointed to consider the rules of the General Nursing Council with regard to the prescribed training for nurses, and the reservation of seats on the Council for Matrons. The Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher in the Chair.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Friday, July 24th.

MISS EUPHEMIA STEELE INNES, R.R.N., A.R.R.C., D.N., called and examined.

In reply to the Chairman, Miss Innes said she was Matron of the General Infirmary, Leeds, and a member of the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and appeared to give evidence on its behalf.

She stated that the College was of opinion that the prescribed training syllabus should not at the present time be made compulsory, having regard to the difficulties some hospitals experience in making arrangements to include all the details of the present syllabus in their curriculum. This opinion was obtained by calling a special meeting at which the various advantages were discussed, and it was felt that just at present the curriculum was experimental, and that it would be unwise not to leave the training Syllabus rather elastic.

Replying to a question by the Chairman as to whether the meeting which arrived at this decision was well attended, Miss Innes replied that the members who were invited were all there, afterwards the suggestions of these members were laid before the Council at a full meeting, and they approved of this. They considered that the Examination Syllabus should be compulsory.

Asked whether complaints had been made as to nurses being confronted with questions in the Examination for which they had no preparatory training, Miss Innes said she had heard complaints of that kind, that questions had been asked that were not in the Examination Syllabus. She did not think this was frequent, but she thought it had occurred. She did not think serious injustice had occurred, but there might have been a little in the case of nurses who had been asked questions for which they had not been prepared.

THE RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR MATRONS.

Miss Innes went on to say with regard to the reservation of seats on the Council for Matrons that "the College of Nursing approves of the present scheme with regard to the Special Registers, but with reference to the eleven places left on the Council for representatives of Registered Nurses on the General Part of the Register, the College is of the opinion that the nurses should be empowered to elect any person registered as a nurse on the general part of the Register."

She regarded that as equally representative of the considered view of the Council of the College.

In reply to a question by the Chairman, "You understand the objections that have been raised to this particular provision?" she replied in the affirmative.

Her answer to those objections would be "We feel that it would be very much more democratic for the registered nurses to elect the General Nursing Council without being definitely told that so many are to be Matrons, and so many representatives of different types of nursing. We feel that if they have a free hand and are allowed to elect these 11 members they will get what will really be a well-balanced

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