

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on October 15th at 20, Portland Place, Miss E. M. Musson (Chairman of the Council) presiding.

The Minutes having been confirmed, Miss BUSHBY stated that she wished to ask a question, and asked whether she should do so now or under "Other Business." THE CHAIRMAN decided on the latter course.

### Finance.

Bills and Claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sum of £150 allowed for Stamps, £20 for Insurance Stamps, and £10 for Petty Cash.

The Finance Committee raised no objection to the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee that a Stamp Perforating Machine be purchased at a cost of £3 1s. 4d.

### Registration.

The Registration Committee reported that from September 1st to 25th, three applications had been received. To October 1st there had been 59,072 applications for Registration, 55,323 otherwise than by examination, of which 52,275 had been approved by the Council; 1,376 were ineligible, 483 were duplicates, 1,163 were withdrawn, and 26 were incomplete. Applications for Registration by Examination were 3,749, of these 3,033 passed, 3,007 were approved to September 24th, 4 were taken *in camera* on October 15th, 20 were under age, and the training of 2 was incomplete. 716 were referred in examination.

Applications from 47 nurses who had failed to pay their Retention Fee and now wished their names re-included in the Register were considered *in camera*.

### Education and Examination.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, provisional approval of the Batley and District Hospital was extended for a further year from October 16th.

### Mental Nursing.

The Mental Nursing Committee reported that they had considered the question of the large number of failures of Mental Nurses in the Preliminary State Examination, and recommended that a Memorandum, of which a copy was submitted to the Council be sent to the Chairman of the Visiting Committee, the Medical Superintendent and the Matron of each Mental Hospital approved by the General Nursing Council.

DR. BEDFORD PIERCE, Chairman of the Mental Nursing Committee said that it had considered (1) The large number of failures of Mental Nurses in regard to the Preliminary State Examination, and (2) The difficulty of nurses in hospitals for Mental Defectives in regard to training. It was said that there were insuperable difficulties in obtaining training in bedside nursing for these nurses, and that the Preliminary Examination was particularly difficult. The standard of that examination must be largely determined, said Dr. Bedford Pierce, by the general hospital, and it was exceedingly important that it should be the same for all nurses.

The Committee had also given anxious consideration to the Final Examination. One point of view was that the nurses should early take up some special subjects, such as occupational therapy. There were two divisions of the subject, as in the Arts Examination. In medicine all medical students had to take the same examination and the Mental Nursing Committee had satisfied itself that there was a general wish that there should be no change in the Preliminary Examination as now conducted, and that

the Final Examination for Nurses for Mental Defectives should continue to cover an all round training in this department of Nursing.

### Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported that the correspondence dealt with in the Office between September 1st and 25th, amounted to 32,451 letters received, and 26,479 letters despatched. That the interviews numbered 442. That 186 Permits were issued for the State Uniform. Also that a letter had been received from the Minister of Health approving with one or two exceptions the adjustments of salaries recommended by the Council on July 16th. The letter was circulated as a confidential document and considered *in camera*.

### Other Business.

Under other business MISS BUSHBY asked permission to ask a question, and this having been granted by the Chairman, said:—

#### QUESTION.

"Madam Chair, I want to ask a question about a letter signed by Sir Arbuthnot Lane, which has appeared in the public press, and in the *Lancet*, September 18th, which states that the Registered Nurses' Bureau has the endorsement of the leading members of the General Nursing Council. This I think may be misleading to the public, and I should be glad to have a statement made by you, Madam, that no patronage or 'blessing' has been given by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales."

#### ANSWER.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that the General Nursing Council had not been asked to give its patronage to the Registered Nurses' Bureau and, as a Statutory Body, did not give its official sanction to private enterprises. She was not aware whether individual members of the Council had given it any assistance. If so it was in their private capacity. Considerable confusion and trouble had been caused in the G.N.C. Office owing to the title adopted by the Bureau.

MR. DONALDSON enquired whether Sir Arbuthnot Lane could be asked to withdraw his statement made in the Public Press. THE CHAIRMAN thought not, as it was not sufficiently definite in regard to the General Nursing Council. She repudiated any sanction by the Council.

SIR JENNER VERRALL said that the Council had given no approval to the Bureau though the general public, in its carelessness, might imagine that it had. If a statement were made in the Press such as Mr. Donaldson desired, Sir Arbuthnot Lane would be clever enough to say that he had never said the General Nursing Council had given its approval to the Bureau, adding "We all know our Arbuthnot quite well."

The public business then concluded and the press withdrew.

### POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

We hope our readers will note the statement of the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales at its last meeting, that the Council had given no authority for its name to be used in support of the Registered Nurses' Bureau, Ltd., of 55, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., as letters and paragraphs which have appeared in the press have certainly been calculated to give this impression.

Whether individual members of the Council in their private capacity have extended their patronage to this latest venture on the part of laymen, with certain members of the Medical Profession acting as an Advisory Committee to supply private nurses to the public, the fact remains that paragraphs sent to the press inferred that the Company have the approval of the General Nursing Council. This has now been disavowed, though with less publicity than Registered Nurses require.

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