

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at 20, Portland Place, London, W., on Friday, January 15th. SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM, K.C.M.G. (Chairman of the Council), presiding at its commencement.

Minutes.

Arising out of the Minutes it was arranged that the Conference of representatives of the leading Institutions for Mental Defectives and others interested in the subject, to consider the training and examination of persons engaged in the nursing of mental defectives should be held on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 11 a.m., and that the arrangements should be left in the hands of the Chairman of Council advised by the Chairman of the Mental Nursing Committee.

Election of Chairman.

SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM then said that two members of the Council had been nominated for the Chairmanship, Miss E. M. Musson and himself. He had told the Council two years ago that in his view the Chairmanship should not be confined to one person, or to the nominated members. Miss Musson had been preparing herself for the position for the last two years, had been nominated and was ready to stand. By consequence he was not willing to stand, and there was therefore no need for a ballot. He could not however leave the chair without saying a few words.

The finance of the Council was, he hoped, satisfactory. He could not, however, be quite sure till the end of the present year, perhaps not even then. Its work was a very expensive business, and always must be, a month ago a thousand letters a day were being dealt with. He did not think it would ever be possible to decrease the staff, it might have to be increased. It must be remembered that a quarter of the income of the Council was received in half-crowns.

The Registration Committee had almost finished its work.

The Education Committee had done work of great difficulty with the utmost success. All round the country he heard praise of the way in which the Examinations were conducted. The drawing up of the regulations had been done without mistakes, except one which had recently been pointed out by the solicitor and which steps would be taken to rectify.

In regard to the penal work the Council had to begin to deal with it, and had done so in a careful and responsible way.

In regard to accommodation they had secured excellent quarters at a preposterously cheap bargain, and they would last the Council a lifetime. When he first began to consider the question of new quarters he calculated that they would not get anything under £1,000 a year. They had got them for under £700.

Chair Assumed by Registered Nurse.

He would now put the question "That Miss Musson be elected Chairman for the ensuing year."

This was unanimously agreed, and Miss Musson then took the chair, and assumed office.

Miss LLOYD STILL, seconded by MR. DONALDSON, expressed deep appreciation of the work of SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM as Chairman, and Miss COX DAVIES, supporting, said that she had just been telling SIR WILMOT that nothing she could think of was pretty enough to say of him. She was sure that Madam Chair would want his help and advice.

THE CHAIRMAN (Miss E. M. Musson) said that this was not a funeral oration, and she thought they were going to work the past Chairman as hard as ever.

SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM said he supposed all people had a sort of feeling that they were indispensable, but it was not really so. He had never known anyone who could not be replaced at 24 hours' notice, but he would ask his Executors to write on his urn after his name "deeply lamented."

THE CHAIRMAN then reported the resolution passed by the Council as to representation on other bodies, and it was decided not to accept the invitation of the Royal Sanitary Institute to send official delegates to a Conference convened by it to be held in London in July.

She also reported that the amendment of Rule 16a had met with the approval of the Minister of Health, and that the verbal revision of the Preliminary Syllabus had or would be done.

Finance.

The Council approved the payment of Bills and Claims submitted, and the allowance of £100 for stamps, £20 for Insurance Stamps, and £10 for Petty Cash. It also authorised the additional payment of £5 13s. 3d. for Examiners' Claims in excess of the amount of £3,000 granted at the November Meeting.

The Chairman of the Council and of the Finance Committee were authorised to invest £2,000.

It was agreed to accept the estimate of Messrs. A. & E. Walter, Ltd., for supplying 1,000 copies of the list of Approved Training Schools at a cost of £16 5s.

Registration.

The Registration Committee reported that six applications for Registration had been received from November 21st to December 8th. Applications to date were 56,470. Of these 51,916 were approved by the Council to December 18th, 1925, 105 were ready for submission to the Council that day, 1,340 were ineligible to December 18th, and 6 ineligible were to be brought before the Council that day. There were 483 duplicate applications, 1,106 were withdrawn, and 327 were incomplete. Applications for registration by examination were 1,187. Of these 997 candidates had passed and 190 were referred in examination.

The Committee recommended that the names of twelve nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee for the year 1925 but now wished their names included in the Register be re-included.

Also that the names of 2,069 nurses who have not paid their retention fee for 1926 be removed from the Register.

Education and Examination.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee the Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford (Herts.) was recognised as a complete Training School. The Devizes and District Hospital (in affiliation with the Royal United Hospital, Bath), the Huntingdon County Hospital (in affiliation with Westminster Hospital, London), and the Warwickshire King Edward VII Memorial Sanatorium, Hertford Hill (in affiliation with the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford), were recognised as Training Schools; the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary was provisionally recognised as a complete training school until December 31st, 1926, and the Bingley Cottage Hospital (in affiliation with Victoria Hospital, Keighley), and the Derby Union Infirmary (in association with the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, in place of Burton-on-Trent General Infirmary) were provisionally recognised as Training Schools which, in combination with other public hospitals, give complete training.

The Grove Park Hospital, Lee, S.E. 12, was added to the group of Tuberculosis Institutions of the Metropolitan Asylums' Board recognised by Council.

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