

DAVIES moved that the following resolution passed by Council on July 17th, 1925, be rescinded.

"That power be granted to the Education and Examination Committee in the case of candidates whose training finishes between the dates of the Final Examinations, to admit such candidates to the Examination nearest to the date of completion of training, provided that in no case shall State Registration be effected or a Certificate of Registration be given until the period of training is completed."

And the following substituted :—

"That all candidates should be required to have completed their prescribed period of training before Examination, and that Recommendation 8 of Council Minutes of May 15th, 1925, be adhered to, substituting 'last day of February' for 'January 31st.'"

In bringing forward the original Resolution the Committee stated that they had in view cases which had arisen of candidates who wished to sit for the Examination prior to the completion of their training, for specific reasons, e.g., that they were going abroad, taking training for the Central Midwives Board Examination, etc. The resolution was therefore recommended to Council with the intention of meeting hard cases and approved.

It had been found, however, that at each Examination since the passing of this resolution the number of candidates applying for special permission had persistently increased. For the May Examination the number approached 400. Great difficulty was experienced in dealing with such large numbers. Instances had occurred where candidates had been allowed to sit for the Examination prior to the completion of training but had not remained to complete their full term of training in the hospital. In many cases a lengthened period of sick leave had to be made up. In each case, when a nurse had been allowed to sit for examination before the date on which her full training was actually completed, it had been necessary to send to the Matron of the Hospital concerned a special form for each nurse, to be filled in with the date when the training was actually completed.

For these reasons the Education and Examination Committee recommended that the resolution of July 17th, 1925, be rescinded, and that of May 15th be adhered to, substituting "last day of February" for "January 31st."

Another point mentioned was the increased work necessitated in the Office.

SIR JENNER VERRALL suggested that the Resolution now submitted should end at the word "examination."

MISS K. F. ARMSTRONG said she would be sorry to see the privilege incorporated in the Resolution it was now proposed to rescind taken from the Nurses. She thought the hard cases would be many, and that the large number (400) of those who availed themselves of this privilege at the May Examination was an indication of the need. For example, those who finished their training in June, unless they were permitted to enter for the May Examination, would have to wait for that in October.

It was a financial hardship if nurses were compelled to stay in hospital for an additional five months after completing their training, and if a nurse left her training school and took up new work she might find a difficulty in getting away for the examination. Further there was no one to see that, if on night duty, she had sufficient rest beforehand.

In regard to the increased work entailed on the Office Staff the Nurses paid fees for the upkeep of the Office, and if more work was necessary it should be provided.

For the Nurses the advantages were obvious. It was a serious thing for a Nurse to leave the hospital in which she was trained without passing the State Examination, sometimes as long as five months beforehand. The University of London had altered its Examination to make it easier

for the candidates; the General Nursing Council proposed to take the opposite step.

MISS BUSHBY said the Central Midwives Board would not allow one day's grace to candidates for their examination.

MISS COWLIN agreed with Miss Armstrong. She hoped the Resolution would not be rescinded.

The CHAIRMAN said that the 400 who entered for the May Examination before completing their training were by no means all hard cases. The hard cases were really small in number. There was a certain risk that nurses after taking the Examination might not really complete their training, making up time for sickness and sick leave.

Also some nurses never returned after taking the Examination. Further if the pass list were scrutineered it transpired that of the failures very nearly half were of nurses who had not completed their training. The alteration was made when the Examination was changed from four times to three times a year. The arrangement of entering for the State Examination before completing the hospital training was not permitted in Scotland.

MISS COX DAVIES said she would not like it to stand that the Education Committee had been actuated by any want of sympathy with the nurses. She was by no means sure that all hospitals were able to give nurses on night duty a night off before they sat for the State Examination. In regard to the financial aspect of the question she thought there was no nurse who would not gain enormously by having to complete the full period of training. She considered the provision now proposed was in the interest of the nurses.

On being put to the vote the Resolution to rescind the Resolution of July 17th was carried. MISS BUSHBY called for a division upon which all the Members of the Council present with the exception of MISS ARMSTRONG and MISS COWLIN voted to rescind the above Resolution. SIR JENNER VERRALL remarking, "If it had been explained a little more we should have known where we were."

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS.

The Education Committee further reported that the Boards of Examiners for the Preliminary and Final State Examinations had been considered and the following had been invited to serve on these Boards.

For Preliminary Examination:—E. K. Martin, Esq., M.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S., Surgeon, University College Hospital, London (in place of H. Wallace Jones, Esq., M.D., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.). Miss Letitia S. Clark, R.R.C., S.R.N., Matron, Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, E.11 (in place of Miss Woodward, S.R.N., Matron, St. Luke's Hospital, Halifax).

For Final Examination for Sick Children's Nurses:—Miss Edith Cockeram, A.R.R.C., S.R.N., R.S.C.N., Matron, Children's Hospital, Birmingham (in place of Miss J. H. Balsillie, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., R.F.N.).

For Final Examination for Fever Nurses:—Miss Jessie H. Balsillie, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., R.F.N., Matron, Park Fever Hospital, Hither Green, formerly on Board for Sick Children's Nurses (in place of Miss K. M. Head, S.R.N., R.F.N., London).

Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported that the correspondence dealt with in the office between March 29th and April 30th amounted to 2,424 letters received, and 3,856 letters despatched; that the Interviews numbered 102. That 102 Permits were issued for the State Uniform.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for June 17th. The public business then concluded and the Press withdrew.

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