

whether the Motion could be carried out under the Act, he should say "No."

MR. DONALDSON said he would like to see the Motion rejected from the financial point of view. During the last year the Council had spent £26,000. They then had Registration fees as a source of income, now they had only Retention Fees and Examination Fees. Every £100 added to the expenses would make it more impossible to carry on.

DR. GODDALL said that nurses should be better paid. The Council were subject to the Minister of Health under Section 4 of the Act in regard to subsistence allowance and expenses. On the general principle he thought the giving of honoraria *intra dig*, and he was intensely surprised to hear that day that the General Medical Council were paid.

MISS COWLIN moved an amendment.

"That a sum of money be allowed annually to the Chairman of the Council for such hospitality as he or she feels it necessary to offer in the interests of the Council."

This was seconded by MISS COX DAVIES and lost.

THE HON. MRS. EUSTACE HILLS moved—

"That the Motion, as amended, be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and report."

This was carried by 11 votes to 4.

MISS BUSHBY moved and MISS DU SAUTOY seconded—

"That the Motion as originally worded be referred to the Finance Committee."

The Chairman said he could not take the Amendment as it was contrary to what had gone before.

The public business then concluded, and the press withdrew.

POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

THE PURITY OF THE STATE REGISTER.

The autocratic reply of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to the Council of The British College of Nurses, as to what steps it intends to take to remove from the Register of Nurses a nurse proved guilty of theft will not satisfy that body. Registered Nurses have a right to know how their Governing Body proposes to protect both themselves and the public in this regard. If it does not do so then the Register is worse than useless, a degradation to the nurses, and a danger to the public.

THE DISCIPLINARY AND PENAL CASES COMMITTEE OF THE G.N.C.

When we realise who compose the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee of the G.N.C., this claim to infallibility becomes the more ludicrous, but none the less dangerous. Here they are:—Sir Wilmot Herringham (*Chairman*), Miss Bremner, Lady Hobhouse, Miss Ellinor Smith, Mr. Stratton, Sir Jenner Verrall, Miss Villiers, and Miss Wiese. With the exception of Miss Villiers, a feeble contingent, who, in our opinion, are totally unfitted to advise on the moral standards of the Nursing Profession.

What right has Sir Wilmot Herringham to be in the Chair of the Registered Nurses' Penal Committee? No one could be more unsuitable, and we learn that in his absence the Committee is presided over by Lady Hobhouse, a most unjustifiable assumption of authority over the moral status of Registered Nurses.

Like the Members of all other professions, Registered Nurses should be tried by their peers, and the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee should be entirely composed of Registered Nurses.

Out of the eight persons who compose the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee there are only three of the number who are on the General Part of the Register.

APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF G.N.C. TO APPROVE AN INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The Result of the Appeal of the Town Council of Hastings against the refusal of the General Nursing Council to approve the Corporation's Infectious Diseases Hospital, which is to be heard by Officials of the Ministry of Health on the 25th instant at the Ministry, will be awaited with much interest.

Whatever may be the merits of this particular case it is certain that the conditions in many of the small hospitals for infectious diseases need improvement, and we hope that the General Nursing Council will satisfy itself by inquiry, and inspection, as to these conditions, so that it may be in possession of effective evidence when its decisions are questioned.

IMPERSONATION OF EXAMINATION CANDIDATES.

We are glad two candidates for the October Examination, one of whom impersonated her sister, who allowed herself to be so impersonated, are to be debarred from admission to future examinations. The Council would have been well advised to publish the names of these persons who endeavoured to impose upon it by so unscrupulous a trick.

REPORTS OF BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

The Reports of the Boards of Examiners should be carefully studied by all those responsible for the training of nurses.

In regard to the Preliminary Examinations the Report is on the whole good. We are told that as a rule candidates who fail to reach the pass mark give obvious evidence of lack of general education, but occasionally it is apparent that an intelligent educated candidate, who is capable of clear expression, has received no instruction in the subjects of the examination. We consider that applicants for training have a right to know which are the training schools in which such conditions exist.

In regard to the Final Examination, it will be noted that the Examiners report a very high average of writing, spelling and general construction, but that "the varying degree of knowledge shown, definitely indicates the character of the teaching that each Nurse, or Group of Nurses, has received; some groups seem to have had little or no real teaching."

The General Nursing Council is itself to blame that it is possible for the Examiners to present these reports, at which we are not surprised, as it has failed to carry out the intention of the Nurses' Registration Act in regard to a Prescribed Syllabus of Training, in which policy it has had the support of the Ministry of Health, and of the College of Nursing, Ltd.

It will be remembered that during the evidence given by Mr. L. G. Brock before the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed in 1925, 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, Major Sir Richard Barnett elicited that the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown had not been taken on this debated point, and called for that opinion and the case stated.

In June of last year the Minister of Health wrote in reply to a request from the Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council that he should obtain an opinion from the Law Officers of the Crown upon the legal aspect of Section 3 (2) (a) and (b) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, that he was "not prepared to adopt the suggestion of the Council," and so far as we are aware that opinion has never yet been obtained. We still maintain that nurses have a right to it.

PROPOSED HONORARIUM FOR CHAIRMAN.

The Resolution, moved by Miss Bushby, that the Chairman should be paid an honorarium, subject to the office

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