

The Registration Committee reported: Applications approved for Registration, without examination, to July 15th, 52,315, to September 23rd, 1; for approval by reciprocity on September 23rd, 7; approved for Registration by Examination to July 15th, 6,362; for approval for Registration by Examination on September 23rd, 115. Total, 58,800.

#### Education and Examination.

The Education and Examination Committee recommended that the following hospitals be recognised as training schools which, in combination with other public hospitals, give complete training under Section I (2) of the Scheme of Training:—Woking and District Victoria Hospital, in affiliation with East Surrey Hospital, Redhill. Mirfield Memorial Hospital, in affiliation with Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

That the following hospitals be granted provisional approval as complete training schools for a period of one year from September 23rd, 1927:—Manchester Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital; Wimbledon Hospital, Wimbledon, London; and that Bolingbroke Hospital be now recognised as a complete training school.

The Committee further reported that it had considered applications from the authorities of the following hospitals, for recognition of additional schemes of affiliation:—The South London Hospital for Women, in affiliation with Salisbury General Infirmary, and the National Hospital, Queen Square, London, in affiliation with the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital.

All these recommendations were approved.

The Committee also reported that they had considered a further list of applications for Examinerships, and recommended that the names included in it be added to the Panel of Examiners. This was agreed.

They reported further that in certain cases difficulty had been experienced owing to Boards of Guardians omitting to send a cheque for the Examination Fees with the Entry Forms, and recommended that in future no Examination Entry Forms be accepted unless accompanied by the full fee due. This was approved.

#### Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported (a) that the correspondence dealt with in the office between June 30th and August 31st amounted to: Letters received, July, 4,028, Letters despatched, 8,776; August, Letters received, 4,747, Letters despatched, 54,138. (b) That the Interviews numbered 269. (c) That 144 Permits were issued for State Uniform.

The Committee further reported it had considered the following resolution passed by Council on July 15th, 1927:—

"That the question whether in the near future more accommodation will be required for the staff be referred to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and report."

#### RECOMMENDATION.

The Committee after careful consideration begs to report to the Council that the large increase in the candidates for Examination is already producing difficulty in finding accommodation for the necessary clerks, and also for the mass of papers that have to be preserved.

Some of these latter can be stored in other parts of the house, but large numbers are in continual use for reference, and must be kept in the Examination Department. There are at present twelve filing cabinets full of papers in this Department, and the weight on the floor is great.

Arrangements have been made which will satisfy the needs of the Department for the present. But the Council must certainly expect a continuous increase in the number of candidates, and it will be some years before stability can be reached. Indeed the number will always increase until the demand for hospital accommodation is completely satisfied throughout the country.

The Accountant's Department will also certainly require more room than is at present available.

It seems certain, therefore, that the present house will not be sufficient for the Council's needs for more than five years, if so long.

The Committee would recommend that the Ministry of Health be informed of the position of affairs.

It was agreed that the Council's report in the above sense be forwarded to the Ministry of Health.

After some routine business the public business terminated.

#### LEGAL MATTERS.

Mr. J. Gibbons, M.P., sitting at Dale Street Police Court, Liverpool, on September 15th, as reported in *The Liverpool Post and Mercury*, had before him the case of Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Matthews, charged by the Director of Public Prosecutions with making false declarations under the Nurses' Registration Act, of forging a document purporting to be her marriage certificate, and offences under the Perjury Act.

Mr. Howard Roberts appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions and Mr. C. Muirhead for Mrs. Matthews, who was committed to Liverpool Assizes, bail being allowed. She reserved her defence.

Mr. Roberts said Matthews had got herself into trouble by the foolish way she had gone about securing her registration. No doubt she could have gained her desire to be registered if she had done it properly. The method she employed, however, was to make false declarations from time to time in order to substantiate her adoption of another nurse's name, and to forge the signature of a Liverpool solicitor on a document which she submitted as being her marriage certificate.

In July, 1922, Mr. Roberts went on, the registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales received a letter signed "S. E. Matthews, matron of the Nursing Institution, Lomond Road," purporting to be written on behalf of a nurse named Jeppes, who desired to be registered. The letter stated that Nurse Jeppes had qualified for registration by serving for two years at Whipp's Cross Nursing Institution, West Ham.

As a matter of fact, said Mr. Roberts, there had been a nurse of that name at Whipp's Cross hospital from 1904 to 1906, and Matthews herself was a nurse there for a few months, which, however, would not qualify her for registration. The application to the Council was apparently for herself, and she adopted the name of Jeppes, so as to imply that she had received the necessary training. A similar application was received by the Nursing Council in September, 1922, for a Mrs. Daisy Stewart. Stewart, explained Mr. Roberts, was Matthew's name by a former marriage.

When the Council asked for a copy of her marriage certificate, Matthews went to Mr. Howard Watson, solicitor, of Liverpool, and got him to witness and seal a document which was a copy of her own marriage certificate, and bore her correct maiden name of Hudson. She then made a copy of this, substituting the name Jeppes for Hudson, transferred the seal to the forged copy, and forged Mr. Howard Watson's name. This false document was sent to the Nursing Council with the apparent intention of representing that Matthew's maiden name was Jepps.

The document was accepted by the Council, and the name "Daisy Stewart" was entered on the register. In April, 1925, Matthews sought registration in the name of Stewart-Matthews, and subsequently she asked that the name of Stewart should be removed from the register. When inquiries were made the true position was discovered.

The above is the case referred to by the Chairman of the General Medical Council for England and Wales as reported on page 250.

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