

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The eighty-fourth meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on Friday, November 18th, at 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. The Chairman of the Council, Miss E. McMUSSON, R.R.C., presided.

Nurses and Evidence as to the Cause of Death.

It will be remembered that at its meeting in September the General Nursing Council received a letter from the Matron of the Wrexham and War Memorial Hospital asking for its support in her contention to the Home Office that it is no part of the duty of a nurse to give evidence as to the cause of death of a patient, as nurses of that hospital had been directed to do by the Wrexham Coroner, and that the Council agreed that the Chairman should write to the Home Office saying that there is nothing in the curriculum of nursing education defined by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to qualify a nurse to give such evidence.

The Chairman of the Council (Miss E. M. MUSSON, R.R.C.) reported that the following letter had been received from the Home Office:—

Home Office, Whitehall.
2nd Nov., 1927.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of 23rd September last (EMM/CB), I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that he has been in communication with the Coroner in question, and understands that in future the Coroner will act upon the view that the intention of Section 21(1) of the Coroners' Act, 1887, is that evidence as to cause of death is to be sought from a legally qualified medical practitioner, and, in the first instance at any rate and in the absence of reason to the contrary, from the legally qualified medical practitioner or practitioners who attended deceased at death or during his last illness.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) A. LOCKE.

The Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 20, Portland Place, W.1.

Finance.

Bills and Claims submitted by the Finance Committee were approved, and the sum of £150 for Stamps, and £25 for Insurance Stamps allowed.

The sums of £5,500 for Examiners' Claims and Expenses, and of £320 for stamps for the Election Ballot Papers were also allowed.

It was reported that the sum of £3,000 had been invested in Union of South Africa 5 per cent. Inscribed Stock 1945/75, costing £2,985.

The Finance Committee reported that they raised no objection to Recommendations 12, 13, 14, and 15 of the General Purposes Committee.

These were (12) "That the estimate of Messrs. Merryweather & Sons, Ltd., for the installation of a fire alarm system, at a cost of £53 18s., be accepted." (13) "That the Offices of the Council be closed for Christmas Holiday from Saturday, December 24th, until Tuesday, December 27th, inclusive." (14) "That the following Equipment be purchased for the Registrar's Department:—2 Four-drawer foolscap filing cabinets, with lock, at £8 17s. 6d. each." (15) "That the estimate of Messrs. B. Colley & Sons, Ltd., amounting approximately to £25, be accepted." This was for work in connection with the flue in the Caretaker's

kitchen, which had been found to be defective, and as a matter of urgency had been put in hand.

The Finance Committee further reported an interview of Members of the Council with a representative of the Minister of Health with reference to a Recommendation adopted at the October Council Meeting, after discussion, as to the grant of an Honorarium to Chairman, which provided "that the Minister of Health be approached as to a method of remedying a condition which might in future prevent a suitable candidate from accepting the position of Chairman."

They reported that the recommendation was received with sympathy, and that the matter is receiving consideration.

Registration.

The Council authorised the issue of Silver Badges marked "duplicate" to eight Registered Nurses, who had respectively reported the loss of their Badges a year ago, on payment by them of the price of the Badge, and the additional expense of engraving the word "duplicate."

It was also agreed to issue to a Registered Nurse whose certificate had been destroyed by fire, and to another whose certificate was lost, Certificates of Registration on the General Part of the Register, in accordance with Rule 14.

The Registration Committee reported: Applications approved for Registration without examination to October 21st, 52,325; for approval on November 18th, 1; for approval for Registration by reciprocity on November 18th, 2; approval for Registration by Examination to October 21st, 6,493; for approval for Registration by Examination on November 18th, 4. Total 58,825.

The Registration Committee recommended that the names of 25 Nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their Registration Fee and now wished to be re-included should be re-included.

Education and Examination.

The Education and Examination Committee recommended that the following hospitals be recommended as training schools which, in combination with other public hospitals, give complete training under Section I. (4) (ii.) of the Scheme of Training:—

City Sanatorium, Yardley Road, Birmingham, in affiliation with Birmingham General Hospital, and with Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital.

Manchester Babies' Hospital, in affiliation with Ancoats Hospital, Manchester.

The Education Committee further reported that they had considered the decision of the Minister of Health in the appeal of the Hastings Borough Council, and presented the following Report:—

In March, 1926, the Health Department of the Borough of Hastings applied to the General Nursing Council for the recognition of the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, as a complete school for the training of nurses for admission to the Supplementary Part of the Register for Fever Nurses. In accordance with its usual practice the Nursing Council sent a Questionnaire to the Health Department and deputed one of its members to visit the Sanatorium. In consequence, partly of the information given in the Questionnaire, and partly of the report of the visitor, the Council, upon the recommendation of its Education and Examination Committee, declined to recognise the Hospital as a complete training school, and suggested that the authorities should try and arrange affiliation with a larger Hospital in accordance with the Scheme adopted by the Council in March, 1926. The Borough Council, however, appealed to the Ministry of Health under Sec. 7 (2) of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919. The Appeal was heard at the Ministry on March 15th, 1927, when representatives from the Nursing Council attended and stated the Council's case. The reasons for the Council's declining to recognise the Hospital were that the average daily number of cases under treatment (15) was too small, and that the large majority of the patients treated in the Hospital were suffering from scarlet fever or diphtheria, and that there were very few suffering from other infectious diseases. Consequently it was not possible to afford probationer nurses an adequate training in the nursing of

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