

beds was going to do no good at all. It would make the nurses dull and unintelligent. Many cottage hospitals could profess to train on this number more thoroughly than any fever hospital. The Council was a responsible Council set up by Act of Parliament. If the Minister was going to upset the Rules all hope for good work was at an end.

MISS COX DAVIES emphasised the gravity of the position in the future. The matter was not likely to stop at one type of hospital. If standards were to be lowered by the Ministry on an appeal by a hospital with a grievance we should be better off without Registration.

THE REV. G. B. CRONSHAW said that it would be within the memory of the Council that they had had to consult with the General Nursing Councils of Scotland and Ireland as to standards. If the standard of training in England were to be lowered the relations of the Council for England and Wales with the Councils for Scotland and Ireland would be affected.

MISS BUSHBY expressed the opinion that it was no use to try to carry on at all if this decision were to be allowed.

SIR WILMOT HERRINGHAM thought the decision would have disastrous effect upon the work of the Council.

SIR JENNER VERRALL expressed the opinion that the intention of the Act was that the Council should have the responsibility of deciding what was an adequate standard, and the appeal to the Minister should not be as to the standard but as to whether the institution concerned conformed to the standard laid down by the Council and was therefore entitled to recognition.

Miss Cowlin, the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills, and Lady Hobhouse also took part in the discussion, and the Resolution of protest against the Minister's decision, and the resolution asking for an interview with the Minister himself, was carried unanimously.

Mental Nursing.

The Council temporarily approved the Edinburgh District Mental Hospital, Bangor, as a Training School for Mental Nurses, to permit a Mental Nurse now resident in England to take the Final State Examination for Mental Nurses in this country.

Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported: (a) That the correspondence dealt with in the office between October 1st and 31st amounted to—Letters received, 9,377; Letters despatched, 22,956; (b) That the Interviews numbered 202; (c) That 170 Permits were issued for the State Uniform.

Resignation of Registration Officer.

The Committee reported that Miss Nellie Barker, who was appointed as Registration Officer in September, 1923, has tendered her resignation from the staff.

Accommodation for Clerks and Papers.

It will be remembered that the Council at its September Meeting reported the "difficulty in finding accommodation for the necessary clerks, and also for the mass of papers that have to be preserved," and it was agreed "that the Ministry of Health be informed of the position of affairs."

The Committee now reported it had considered a letter from the Ministry of Health in reply to the recommendation forwarded on September 23rd, offering to send an expert to advise on the matter of accommodation, which offer was accepted.

The State Uniform.

It was agreed to issue duplicate Permits to obtain the State Uniform to four Registered Nurses, the loss of whose Permits was reported six months ago.

The date of a Special Meeting of the Council to consider the Registration of successful candidates in the recent examination was fixed for December 2nd, and of the December Council Meeting for December 16th.

The public business then concluded, and the press withdrew.

THE ELECTION OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

ELECTION TACTICS.

The Committee appointed by the College of Nursing Ltd., the Association of Hospital Matrons, and the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, has widely circularised the electorate, this campaign being, we understand, largely subsidised by Annie, Viscountess Cowdray and other members of the public.

But more than this, Candidates for election as Direct Representatives of the nurses, other than those nominated by the above Committee, were astonished to find that in *The Nursing Times* of November 26th, the official organ of the College of Nursing, Ltd., under the heading "Complete List of Candidates," their names were included in this "Complete List" in small type, together with those of the Committee's nominees in heavy black type.

We print below a letter, signed by four most respected candidates for election thus affected, which appeared in *The Nursing Times* of December 3rd, and the Editorial comment thereon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE NURSING TIMES.

MADAM,—We, the undersigned candidates as Direct Representatives for election to the General Council for England and Wales note with surprise that, in publishing the list of candidates in the issue of *The Nursing Times* for November 26th, you have discriminated against some of the candidates, ourselves included, by printing our names in small type.

We did not ask you to publish our names in *The Nursing Times*, but since you have seen fit to do so, with the obvious intention of depreciating our professional status, and thus prejudicing our candidature in the Election, we must request you to publish this letter, together with an apology, in your next issue.

We are, Madam, yours faithfully,

(Signed) ELLEN EDITH FOWLER, E. L. MACAULAY,
A. M. BUSHBY, C. C. DU SAUTOY.

Comment by the Editor of "The Nursing Times."

[The sole object in using heavy type for the names of candidates recommended by the Poor Law Matrons' Association, the College of Nursing, and the Association of Hospital Matrons, was to emphasise the fact that they were the candidates proposed by these bodies for election to the General Nursing Council. It must surely be the duty of its Official Organ to press forward the views of the members of the College of Nursing who have taken the trouble to express their considered opinion as to the most suitable candidates, and had we failed to do so, an apology would have been due to them, and they might have questioned justifiably the value of organisation.

We can assure our correspondents that in giving them the publicity afforded by our columns in less prominent type we had no intention whatever of depreciating their professional status.—Ed., N.T.]

It is futile to attempt to excuse the action of *The Nursing Times* on the ground that it is the official organ of the College of Nursing, Ltd., as it is a public newspaper, registered as such, and obtainable by all and sundry.

The Editor of *The Nursing Times* does not appear to realise the serious nature of the attempt to depreciate the professional status of these ladies, and thus to prejudice their chance of election to the General Nursing Council.

Moreover, the Editor of *The Nursing Times* (Miss Gertrude Cowlin), evidently does not recognise the accepted ethical

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)