

2. The second case was that of Osbert Friend, Registered Mental Nurse, No. 2259, who was convicted on November 15th, 1926, of using licensed premises for the purposes of betting. The Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee informed the Council that it did not consider that this conviction should necessitate the removal of the nurse's name from the Register. The Council decided:—

"That the question be referred back to the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee for further information and report."

#### Correspondence and Interviews.

The Correspondence dealt with during 1926 amounted to 76,818 letters received, and 174,475 letters despatched.

#### Election of Committees.

The Council then proceeded to elect the Standing Committees for the ensuing year with the following results:—

*Finance.*—Miss Bushby, Miss Cox-Davies, Mr. Cronshaw, Mr. Donaldson, Miss du Sautoy, Sir Jenner Verrall, Miss Villiers, Miss Wilson.

*Registration.*—Miss Alsop, Miss Bremner, Miss Cowlin, Miss Cox-Davies, Mr. Donaldson, Miss du Sautoy, Dr. Goodall, Miss Price.

*Education and Examination.*—Miss Alsop, Miss Armstrong, Miss Bushby, Miss Cowlin, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss du Sautoy, Dr. Goodall, Miss Lloyd Still, Dr. Smedley, Miss Sparshott, Mr. Stratton, Miss Villiers.

*Disciplinary and Penal Cases.*—Miss Bremner, Miss Cowlin, Hon. Mrs. Hills, Lady Hobhouse, Mr. Stratton, Sir Jenner Verrall, Miss Villiers, Miss Wiese.

*Mental Nursing.*—Miss Bremner, Miss Cowlin, Miss Cox-Davies, Mr. Donaldson, Miss du Sautoy, Dr. Bedford Pierce, Dr. Smedley, Miss Wiese.

*General Purposes.*—Miss Bremner, Miss Bushby, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss du Sautoy, Dr. Goodall, Hon. Mrs. Hills.

The public business then concluded and the press withdrew.

## POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

### AN OFFENSIVE RESOLUTION.

It will be observed that the letter of the Council of the British College of Nurses relating to the inclusion of the name of a thief in the Register of Nurses was received with insult.

It was moved and seconded by two medical men (Sir Jenner Verrall and Dr. Goodall) that "it lie upon the table." We are used to the autocratic attitude of the nominated medical men on the Council, but why did the Nurse Members permit the opinion of Registered Nurses to be ignored without expostulation or comment, and only one, Miss Bushby, vote against it? The College of Nursing group is apparently very timorous.

### PENAL CASES.

Registered Nurses will note that the General Nursing Council have reiterated their determination to keep on the Register the name of Elisabeth Shand whom they state was "found guilty of stealing," which we consider an inexcusable dereliction of duty, not only as regards the Registered Nurses, but also as regards the public, for it is most important that the probity of nurses whose relations to sick and, in many cases, defenceless persons should be above suspicion.

In the second case, considered *in camera*, of a registered mental nurse convicted on November 15th last in a Police Court—and heavily fined—of using licensed premises for the purpose of betting, in connection with which the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee recommended that his name be permitted to remain on the Register, we note with relief that the Council referred this recommendation back to the Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee for further information and report. We hope this will result in some effective action being taken. We consider this nurse is at least deserving of censure.

## THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

### A DRAFT REPORT ON THE NURSING PROFESSION.

The Conference of Nursing, Hospital, Medical, Labour, and Kindred Organisations convened by the Labour Party, met at the Caxton Hall, S.W., on January 28th, to consider the Draft Report on the Nursing Profession prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations and the Labour Party's Advisory Committee on Public Health.

#### Morning Session.

The President of the Morning Session was the Right Hon. Frederick Roberts, M.P. (ex-Minister of Pensions, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party) who after welcoming the delegates called on the Right Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Leader of the Labour Party, to open the Conference.

#### MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD OPENS THE CONFERENCE.

Mr. MacDonald said that he was glad to be able to look in and give a hearty welcome to the Conference, and thought the Labour Party might congratulate themselves on the representative character of the gathering. Those of us, he said, who come up from below feel in a very peculiar way, a sense of great gratitude to the Nursing Profession. We know what that Profession can do, not from hearsay, not from having entered into managerial relations with it, but for much better reasons. We have been ill and you have ministered to us. I can assure you that those of us who have had that experience, whether for ourselves or our families, will be enlisted among those who would like to show their gratitude to the Nursing Profession.

Now as to the facts. No one knows better than doctors and nurses that the scientific methods of approaching a problem is the only one that gives any prospect of doing permanent good. The method therefore we propose to pursue in this case as well as in administration and legislation is the production of constructive ideas, and the creation of a programme. Our object is to improve the conditions of the nurses, and to show our gratitude not merely in words but in a way that will materialise. What are the facts? What underlies the grievances which are on the surface by common consent.

After saying that the Report deals with the question of wages, qualification for admission to training, hours of duty, hours of recreation, superannuation, friendly benefits, organisation of nurses, and the progress and scope of legislation, Mr. MacDonald said that the Committee took great pains to make the Report accurate. It had been compiled from answers received in reply to a Questionnaire sent to every institution they knew to exist.

They had put the elements, as it were, into a test tube, and they hoped to discuss with the Conference the results, and see how they had passed the tests and what they had learned after scrutiny.

Some thirty odd years ago he had been an inmate of St. Thomas' Hospital. The conditions of nurses had to be improved owing to the fact that they had given service to the community with extra devotion. We desire, he said, to show our gratitude, not merely in obeisance before you which you know is sincere, but to enable you to enter into possession of your dues.

#### STATUS.

I am, said Mr. MacDonald, a tremendous believer in status, I would work for sixpence an hour if I felt my status were going to be better, rather than for 2s. 6d. an hour at exactly the same job if I felt I was going to be merely a miserable hewer of wood and drawer of water. (Applause).

We are apt to lose sight of the fact that if we are going to draw forth magnificent service from men and women we cannot pay them in pounds, shillings, and pence. The

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