

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on February 18th, 1927, at 20, Portland Place, London, W. The Chairman of the Council, Miss E. M. MUSSON, presided, and thanked the Council for the honour it had done her in electing her to the Chair for another term of office.

Correspondence.

A letter was received from Sir Joseph Priestley, thanking the members of the Council individually for their congratulations on the honour recently conferred on him by the King, for which he was most grateful.

A letter was also received from Miss WIESE, resigning her membership of the Council as she had entered upon a course of general training at the New End Hospital, Hampstead. THE CHAIRMAN moved that the resignation be accepted with regret. She had taken a step back to make greater advance later on. She thought Miss Wiese had done the right thing and the plucky thing.

THE CHAIRMAN reminded the Council that, in connection with the vacancy on the Council thus created, nominations should be sent to the Registrar. Nominees must be registered on the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, and their consent to serve if elected must be obtained.

Finance.

Bills and Claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sum of £100 was allowed for stamps; £20 for insurance stamps; £10 for petty cash; and £4,500 for Examiners' claims and expenses.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL and the CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE were authorised to invest the sum of £2,000 in consultation with the Council's bankers. Mr. DONALDSON explained that this was not surplus revenue.

The estimate of Messrs. J. S. Forsaith & Son for printing the necessary Forms, Ballot Papers, &c., in connection with the forthcoming Election of the Council, was accepted; and that of Messrs. Butler & Tanner, amounting approximately to £1,650, for printing 250 copies of the Register of Nurses for 1927.

Registration.

REGISTRATION TO FEBRUARY 18TH, 1927.

Applications approved for Registration without Examination to January 21st, 1927, 52,292; applications approved for Registration by Examination to January 21st, 1927, 4,158; applications for approval for Registration by Examination on February 18th, 1927, 14. Total, 56,464.

The names of 133 nurses removed from the Register because they had not paid their retention fees and have now done so were re-included.

Education and Examination.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, the Hartlepool Hospital was recognised as a complete Training School; and the Victoria Hospital, Accrington, in affiliation with the Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

The Committee reported that it had co-opted Dr. Bedford Pierce as a member.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

The Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee reported that it had considered the business referred from the Council on January 21st, and further reported a letter from the Respondent, who was convicted on November 15th of using licensed premises for the purpose of betting.

The Council considered this business *in camera*, and

subsequently communicated the following resolution to the press:—

"That there was not a *prima facie* case for the removal of the name of Osbert Friend, Registered Mental Nurse, No. 2,259, from the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses."

Correspondence.

The Correspondence dealt with in the Office during January amounted to 2,921 letters received, and 11,162 letters despatched. The interviews numbered 109, and 136 permits were issued for the State Uniform.

Resignation.

The General Purposes Committee reported that, owing to ill-health, the Committee had received with regret the resignation of Miss Ellinor Bowman, who had been in charge of the Postal Department for five and a quarter years.

Constitution of Uniform Committee.

MISS VILLIERS moved in accordance with notice:—

"That the Resolution of February 16th, 1923, viz.:

"That the Uniform Committee be constituted of the elected Members of the Council, and report to the Council," be rescinded, and that the following be substituted:—

"That six Members of the Council be appointed to form the Uniform Committee, of whom three shall be a quorum."

The motion was seconded by Miss SPARSHOTT and supported by Miss LLOYD STILL, Miss COX DAVIES, and Mr. DONALDSON, and carried.

Chairmen of Committees.

There was no alteration in the Chairmen of Committees who have been elected since the last meeting. They are: *Finance*, Mr. Donaldson; *Registration*, Miss Alsop; *Education and Examination*, Miss Lloyd Still; *Disciplinary and Penal Cases*, Sir Wilmot Herringham; *Mental Nursing*, Dr. Bedford Pierce; *General Purposes*, Miss Cox Davies; and *Uniform*, Miss Villiers.

On the conclusion of the public business, the press withdrew.

POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

It will be noted the Council of the G.N.C. decided there was no *prima facie* case for the removal from the Register of the name of a male nurse convicted in a Court of Law of using licensed premises for the purpose of betting. It all seems rather like Alice-in-Wonderland. Since no one, at any rate publicly, has made any suggestion that the name should be removed, why proclaim that there is no ground for removing it?

In our opinion there is a very strong case for citing *any* Registered Nurse who has been convicted of breaking the Common Law to appear before the Council, and to justify his conduct if he can, to the Governing Body of his profession. If he cannot do so, then is the time to decide whether his name shall be removed from the Register or not, and if not whether he shall be censured or cautioned. Even the G.N.C., invertebrate as it is in dealing with penal offences, might pluck up sufficient courage to administer a caution "for cause."

There is also another point. We are now within ten months of the dissolution of the present General Nursing Council, and a free and open election of the 16 elected nurse members.

It remains for the electors to decide whether there is a *prima facie* case for the removal from the Council of any of those who at present represent them; then will be an opportunity for requiring those candidates who seek their suffrages to consider how they have fulfilled the election pledges which they gave when returned to office in January, 1923, and to declare their policy for the future.

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