

mittee appointed by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association the present method of appointing Examiners for the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses in accordance with resolution passed by Council on November 19th, 1926, was passed. A full and frank discussion of the various points at issue took place. No recommendations were made, and further consideration will be given by the Mental Nursing Committee to the subject.

Office Business.

The Correspondence dealt with in the Office between November 1st and 27th amounted to 7,017 letters received, and 14,609 letters despatched. The number of interviews was 107, and the number of Permits issued for the State Uniform 92.

Appointment of Principal Clerk.

Miss Catherine Clement, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., trained at University College Hospital, and at the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, London, E., has been appointed to the post of Principal Clerk in the Examinations Department, rendered vacant by the resignation of Miss Minnie Paterson, S.R.N., at a salary of £220 per annum.

Uniform.

Three additional firms have been authorised to make the State Uniform, and the price to be charged to Registered Nurses for the White Cambric and Organdie Muslin Caps has been fixed at 4s. 6d. each.

Notice of Motion.

MISS BUSHBY moved in accordance with Motion:—

"That the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales shall be paid an Honorarium of £100 per annum, subject to the office being held by a Registered Nurse."

MISS BUSHBY said:—

"I intended bringing forward the motion standing in my name, as some members know, at the beginning of the year, but refrained from doing so until now. These are my reasons for bringing it forward:

"Doctors and Laymen have been good to Nurses in helping them, but this one cannot say of all. It has been reported—and as far as I know not contradicted—that a well-known Medical Superintendent of one of our largest London Hospitals spoke in a most disparaging way of Matrons, and also said Nurses were not doctors' colleagues but their servants. Doctors do not engage or dismiss nurses, neither do they pay them. They are both the servants of the general public.

"Nursing will always be a submerged profession unless Nurses emancipate themselves, no one else can do this for them.

"The Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales should be a Registered Nurse, as Nurses above all people should know the wants of the Nursing Profession. As far as I can see at present this position can only be held by one not in active service, and we have no right to expect so much voluntary work, and out-of-pocket expenses from the Chairman of such a large body of persons.

"I ask you all to give this Resolution most serious consideration, and not to turn it down, but to grant an Honorarium of £100 per annum, exclusive of travelling and subsistence allowances. I believe this is done by other large bodies, such as the General Medical Council."

MISS DU SAUTOY seconded the Motion.

MISS COX DAVIES moved an amendment. There were two points on which she disagreed with the Motion. One was she said, a matter of principle and the other a matter of policy. She therefore moved that the last ten words, "subject to the Office being held by a Registered Nurse,"

be deleted. She held there was nothing in the Nurses' Registration Act to indicate that it was the desire of Parliament to create a privileged class—the Registered Nurses—in the Council.

THE CHAIRMAN enquired whether any one had an amendment on the previous words.

DR. SMEDLEY said he had, unless MISS COX DAVIES would accept the deletion of the two words immediately preceding those of her amendment, *i.e.*, "per annum."

MISS COX DAVIES replied she would say at once that she would not accept it.

DR. SMEDLEY moved the deletion of the words "per annum."

MISS COWLIN suggested that the Chairman of the General Nursing Council might be given a subsistence allowance up to £100 a year.

THE CHAIRMAN said that had nothing to do with the question. The amendment before the Council was that the words from £100 be deleted.

MISS COWLIN said that if the Chairman would allow her to go on he would find out that it had.

The amendment was not seconded.

MISS LLOYD STILL desired to have placed on record that she expressed entire disapproval of the whole motion from all points of view.

MISS BUSHBY moved and MISS COX DAVIES seconded that this be done.

THE CHAIRMAN said this could not be done. It was not in accordance with the practice of the Council to place on record the private opinion of members, but only the Acts of the Council.

LADY HOBHOUSE opposed the Motion, and said it was the duty of the Council to elect their Chairman, and any distinction was entirely undemocratic. They could elect whom they chose, whether man or woman, doctor or nurse, or so depraved a member as herself, who was neither one nor the other.

DR. GOODALL said he should support Miss Cox Davies' amendment. Whether elected or appointed, all members of the Council had equal rights, and all had the same chances of being elected to the Chair.

MISS WIESE opposed the proposal on the ground of expense. MISS SPARSHOT also opposed, and said that she felt Miss Bushby had not considered the question. She was quite sure that if the Registered Nurses were asked, they would all wish the motion to apply equally to all members of the Council, and they were the people who would find the money.

MISS VILLIERS expressed sympathy with Miss Bushby's Motion. She considered that the justification of the proposal to limit the honorarium to Registered Nurses was that doctors had far larger pensions than Matrons. Retired Matrons were not usually well pensioned, and they should be enabled to hold office.

THE CHAIRMAN said that no one but Miss Villiers had given the real reason for the proposal.

MISS COX DAVIES' amendment was put to the vote and declared carried. On Miss Bushby's demanding a division there voted—

For the Amendment, 13.—Miss Alsop, Miss Bremmer, Miss Cowlin, Miss Cox Davies, Mr. Donaldson, Dr. Goodall, the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills, Lady Hobhouse, Miss Lloyd Still, Dr. Smedley, Miss Sparshott, Sir Jenner Verrall, and Miss Villiers.

Against, 3.—Miss Bushby, Miss du Sautoy, and Miss Wiese.

Not Voting, 1.—Miss Armstrong.

On the Motion as amended MISS LLOYD STILL enquired whether the Act allowed for the suggestion which had been made in the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN replied that if Miss Lloyd Still asked him

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)