

The Committee recommended

"That permission be granted to the Education and Examination Committee to interview the representatives appointed by the British Hospitals Association, Board of Control, and Association of Poor Law Unions, on Wednesday, May 2nd."

This was agreed.

#### Mental Nursing.

The Mental Nursing Committee reported the application of a Mental Nurse who had received part training at the West Riding Mental Hospital, Menston, Leeds, and part training at the South Yorkshire Mental Hospital, Sheffield (both Hospitals being under the County Borough of the West Riding of Yorkshire), and who sought permission to enter for the Final Examination for Mental Nurses.

It was agreed to approve these institutions temporarily as an Affiliated Training School for Mental Nurses, for the purpose of the above application.

#### Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported (a) That the correspondence dealt with in the office between February 27th and March 24th amounted to—Letters received, 5,462, Letters despatched 9,268. (b) That the interviews numbered 152, (c) That 88 permits were issued for the State Uniform.

#### Appointment of Principal Clerk.

The General Purposes Committee reported further that Miss Evelyn Wild, B.A., had been appointed Principal Clerk in the Examinations Department, at a salary of £220 per annum, and commenced duty on April 12th.

#### The State Uniform.

The Uniform Committee recommended that duplicate Permits to obtain the State Uniform should be issued to eight Registered Nurses who had reported the loss of their permits six months ago. This was sanctioned.

The Committee also reported that they had considered the materials (serge and gaberdine) at present used for the State Uniform and recommended "that the Uniform Committee be authorised to take the necessary steps to standardise the materials for uniform." Authority was given.

The Committee further recommended "that the details of the Uniform be reconsidered periodically, but not more frequently than once in five years."

THE CHAIRMAN stated that the Council was constantly asked to make small differences in the uniform.

MISS E. S. HALDANE asked whether five years was not too long an interval.

THE CHAIRMAN explained that the details of the uniform were incorporated in a Rule, and that alterations had therefore to be approved by the Minister of Health, and laid before Parliament. This could not be done frequently.

#### Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for May 18th. The public business then concluded and the Press withdrew.

#### MAY 1928 EXAMINATIONS.

Preliminary and Final State Examinations will, should a sufficient demand be shown, be held at the following Centres:

London.	Liverpool.
Portsmouth.	Manchester.
Norwich.	Sheffield.
Birmingham.	Nottingham.
Swansea.	Carlisle.
Bristol.	Newcastle.
Plymouth.	Leeds.

The Written part of the Preliminary Examination will be held on Tuesday, May 15th, 1928, and the Written part of the Final Examinations will be held on Wednesday, May 16th, 1928.

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

We have received for publication from the General Nursing Council for Scotland the important letter which we print below:—

The General Secretary,  
Royal Medico-Psychological Association,  
Springfield Mental Hospital,  
Tooting, London, S.W.

Dear Sir,—I have now had an opportunity of submitting to my Council your letter of March 12th.

I am directed to remind your Association that so far as Scotland is concerned, the whole question of the effect of the Examinations set up by my Council under the Nurses' Registration (Scotland) Act, 1919, upon the Examinations conducted by your Association was discussed between your Association and my Council in 1924. Your Association appointed a Committee to discuss the matter with a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose by my Council. After a conference between these Committees an agreement was come to between your Association and my Council under which for the purpose of avoiding as far as possible the duplication of Examinations, your Association agreed to exempt from your Preliminary Examination candidates who had passed the State Preliminary Examination in Scotland, while on the other hand, my Council agreed that the Examiners for their Final Examinations should be nominated by your Committee for appointment by my Council, and further agreed that a Joint Advisory Committee of your Association and my Council's Education and Examination Committee should be set up to deal with matters connected with the State Final Examination in Mental Nursing.

So far as my Council are aware these proposals were accepted unanimously by your Association at your Annual General Meeting in 1924, and have been in operation ever since. Your Committee arranges for the setting of my Council's Final Examination Papers in Mental Nursing in addition to nominating the Examiners, and while for the last three years my Council have been in regular correspondence with your Committee they have heard from them no complaints in regard to the rules of my Council. It was therefore something of a surprise to members of my Council to read in the newspapers the resolution passed by your Association, and my Council would have expected that if the agreement in existence between our two bodies was not considered satisfactory by your Association my Council would have been informed to that effect by your Committee set up for the purpose of dealing with such matters in conjunction with the Committee of my Council.

In regard to the Report of the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorders (p. 107, para. 202) referred to in your resolution, I am asked to state that my Council agree that it is regrettable that there should be two authorities conducting examinations, both of which carry a recognised qualification in the Nursing Profession, and it was with a view to avoiding this that the negotiations between your Committee and mine were entered into in 1924. My Council are still willing to explore the matter further with a view to seeing how far any inconvenience on this point could be avoided. My Council observe, however, that the evidence that the Vice-Chairman of the Mental Hospitals Committee of the London County Council quoted in the same paragraph of the Report goes much further, and would appear to be to the effect that in England it was considered that no Examinations were desirable.

In regard to the recommendation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Registration of Nurses (para. 22) also quoted by you, I am desired to point out that the Report is over twenty years old, before the date of the Nurses Registration Acts, and thus anterior to the date of our agreement. Further, that Committee recommended in regard to all parts of the Register (para. 16) that the Registration Authority should admit to the State Register all Nurses who held the Certificate of a recognised Training School for Nurses. In other words, it appeared to that Committee that no State Examination was necessary, but that the Registration Authority should accept in the case of Mental Nurses the Certificate of your Association (it being understood that Mental Hospitals do not as a rule conduct qualifying examinations of their own), and in the case of other nurses the Certificate of their Training School. Parliament in the Nurses' Registration Acts did not see fit to give effect to either of these recommendations, and it would appear to my Council to be hardly equitable that Nurses from General and other Hospitals

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