

should require to pass the State Examination while Mental Nurses should not require to do so.

My Council observe that the resolution to which you refer in your letter was passed by a majority of your Association, but my Council feel sure that the majority of your members in Scotland are quite alive to the advantages both to the individual Mental Nurse and to the status of Mental Nurses as a body of their going up along with nurses from General and other Hospitals for the State Examinations.

In addition, the question has a most important bearing on one in which it is understood that your Association, like my Council, have taken a great interest, namely, that of how Mental Nurses could obtain a shortened training in general nursing at General Hospitals. This aspect of the matter was discussed at a considerable length at the meeting with your representatives in 1924, and my Council understood that it was generally accepted by all your representatives that if General Hospitals train their nurses, as they do in Scotland, for the State Examinations, it was hopeless to expect such hospitals to take Mental Nurses for training unless they also had taken these examinations. You may be interested to know that my Council find that a very large proportion of those nurses who have taken the State Examinations in Mental Nursing have subsequently gone on for General Training. My Council regard this as a great advance, but for the reasons given above they are of opinion that the proposals advocated by your Association would, if they came into operation, result in this practice ceasing.

I am further desired to point out that in view of the terms of the Nurses' Registration Act the case of the General Medical Council and the Medical Professional Examinations to which you refer does not seem to my Council to be analogous to the position under that Act, and my Council consequently have difficulty in seeing how they could delegate to another body the right to conduct the State Examination. Further, State Registration of Nurses is now in operation in many British Colonies and Dominions, and in none so far as my Council are aware is the Certificate of any outside body accepted in lieu of the State Examinations. My Council have agreements with these other State Registration Boards providing conditions for the re-registration in one country of Nurses registered in the other country, and apart from all other considerations my Council feel that these agreements would be jeopardised if effect were given to your Association's proposals.

On this point, I may add that, as is well known to Professor G. M. Robertson and your other Scottish Members, the Scottish Board of Health for many years conducted independent Examinations for and kept a Register of (1) Nurses trained in Poor Law Hospitals, and (2) Nurses trained in Fever Hospitals in Scotland. These Registers were really State Registers of Nurses, and the Board of Health's Certificate of Registration had a very high value in Scotland before my Council was brought into existence, but the Scottish Board of Health discontinued their Examinations and Register as soon as my Council's Examinations were commenced.

I am desired to state that in the view of my Council the main reason why so comparatively few nurses have gone in for the Council's Examinations in Mental Nursing is because the fees charged for your Association's Examinations are so very much lower than those of my Council that there is a strong inducement to a nurse to take the cheaper examination. Mental Nurses have for so long been accustomed to paying a merely nominal examination fee that they probably object to paying the Council's fees, which are, of course, the same for all classes of nurses.

My Council understand that for certain reasons your Association desire to continue to issue your Certificate. They regret your Association's view as tending to perpetuate the distinction between Mental Nurses and other classes of nurses, but they feel that the more important point is that, whether or not the two bodies continue to issue Certificates, they should not continue to hold separate examinations if this can be avoided. My Council suggest therefore as a means of meeting the situation that your Association might agree to drop your Preliminary Examination and to accept in lieu thereof the Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Councils. If that were done my Council do not see any great difficulty in coming to an arrangement by which the Final Examination should be conducted jointly by the two bodies. By this means all nurses taking the examinations would obtain the Certificates of both bodies. Various questions of detail would no doubt arise, such as fees, uniformity of examinations, etc., but my Council do not see why such

difficulties, given good will on both sides, should not be capable of adjustment.

My Council think that the whole matter could be better discussed at a meeting than by correspondence, and they will be glad to endeavour to meet representatives of your Association on any mutually convenient date on hearing from you. Meantime, however, in view of the newspaper publicity given to the views of the majority of your Association on the subject under discussion, my Council propose to send this letter to the Press, and assume that you will have no objection to this course.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

18, Melville Street,  
Edinburgh.

W. S. FARMER, Registrar.

In order to give space for the above letter, we are deferring the publication of our own article on this subject of great importance, not only to mental nurses but to all nurses, until our next issue.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The King and Queen will open the Princess Louise Kensington Hospital for Children on May 21st.

The Queen will open the Dr. Nicoll Memorial Wing of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End on Friday, May 11, at 3 p.m. The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Hospital, will receive Her Majesty on her arrival.

The Prince of Wales will be present at the Derby Ball, which is being arranged by Lady Loughborough, at the May Fair Hotel, on Wednesday, June 6th, in aid of the Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway.

The Duke of York will preside at the annual meeting of Governors of the Queen's Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, in the board-room on Thursday, May 17th, at 3 o'clock. The Queen has sent lovely primroses to the hospital.

During her recent visit to the Holy Land, Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, was present at the foot-washing ceremony of the old-style Maundy Thursday at the Armenian Cathedral, and also visited the Ophthalmic Hospital maintained by the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in the British Realm. The hospital is of exceptional interest, and all its paid staff, who are Christians, are members of the Order and admitted thereto as Serving Brothers and Serving Sisters. The Grand Prior of the Order is His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, K.G.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has received a donation of £10,000 from Mr. Joseph John Crosfield, in augmentation of its capital funds.

At the annual general meeting of Charing Cross Hospital, the Chairman, Mr. George Verity, who presided, announced that they would obtain possession of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, about to be incorporated in the general premises of Charing Cross Hospital, debt free. The matinee for the hospital at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, which was attended by the King and Queen, provided just that final amount which enabled them to live up to their "slogan" "debt free." But they had still to raise £30,000 for the equipment of new premises, and they hoped to purchase a site for a nurses' hostel.

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