

cost of examination expenses and Examiners' claims, which was £1,962.

The sum of £27,721 received for examination fees is considerable, and is in part accounted for by the fees for the examination in May becoming due before March 31st, and so necessarily included in that year's accounts. A portion of this account is thus a liability of the Council for the current year.

An increase of £166 was received from Investments and of £237 from Retention Fees.

As will be seen from the Balance Sheet, the income from Examination Fees does not cover the expenditure of the Council, which includes the heavy cost of maintaining and publishing the Register, the upkeep of the premises in a proper state of repair, and other incidental expenses, and these must be met by the interest on our investments and by the income from Retention Fees.

Hence, although the financial position of the Council may be regarded as satisfactory considering the period of its life, yet the time has not arrived at which the Council would be justified in reducing the fees for examination, although they always have it in mind for consideration at any time which may seem to them opportune.

This was agreed.

In connection with the increased cost of the State Examinations the CHAIRMAN said that in order to meet the convenience of the hospitals more centres had been arranged, and this as well as the increase in Examinees, and consequently in Examiners' fees, had increased the cost of the State Examinations.

Mental Nursing.

The Mental Nursing Committee reported that it had considered the replies received from the Representatives of the General Nursing Council for Scotland and of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland, to the invitation of the Council to attend a Conference to discuss the relationship between the General Nursing Councils and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

Also that this Conference, to be held at 20 Portland Place, had been called for Saturday, June 23rd, 1928, at 10.30 a.m.

Correspondence, Permits, and Telegraphic Address.

The General Purposes Committee reported (a) that the correspondence dealt with in the office between May 1st and 31st amounted to Letters received 2,862, Letters despatched 5,030; (b) that the interviews numbered 134; (c) that 92 permits were issued for the State Uniform.

That the Telegraphic Address "Genurcoun, Wesdo, London" had been registered and was now available for use.

The State Uniform.

The Uniform Committee reported that Applications from three Registered Nurses for Duplicate Permits to obtain the State Registered Uniform were considered. The loss of the permits was reported six months ago, and the Committee recommended that these Permits be issued.

Three firms were approved to make the State Registered Uniform for Nurses.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for July 20th and the public business then terminated.

LEGAL MATTERS.

At the North London Police Court, on June 22nd, Anthony Webster (32), carman, of no fixed address, was charged with assaulting Nurse Alice Scott, a nurse at the Hackney Central Institution, Sidney Road, Homerton.

The Nurse said Webster was in the lift, and she told him to get out. He said nothing, but smacked her face with both hands.

Webster was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

THE NATIONAL POOR LAW OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

The National Poor Law Officers' Association, in its report presented to the Annual Meeting at Sheffield, on June 16th, made the following statement:—

On 8th August, 1927, the following letter was sent by the Secretary of the Association to the General Nursing Council, namely:—

"The attention of the Nurses' Committee of this Association has been called to the circular letter dated 8th June last issued by the General Nursing Council in which it is stated that in future all candidates for the final examinations must have completed their prescribed period of training before taking the examination.

"My Committee have directed me to call the attention of your Council to the hardships to a very large number of nurses which will result from the Council's decision in this matter. To take as an example the case of a nurse who is due to complete her training one month after the date of the final examination there will be a delay varying from two to four months before she can enter for the next examination. Adding to this an interval of possibly two months awaiting the result of the examination, one gets a period of from four to six months between the completion of the training and registration.

"In many Poor-Law hospitals selected probationers, at the end of their period of training, are appointed as Staff Nurses for one year, subject to their passing the Final State Examination. During the fourth year they receive training in midwifery and sit for the C.M.B. Certificate. Even under the old regulations there was the difficulty that a nurse appointed in this way might fail to pass her final examination, and having served for two months or so as Acting Staff Nurse would be required to revert to the status of Probationer Nurse; but under the new regulation this period of uncertainty may last as long as six months. It may be said that the difficulty could be overcome by deferring the appointment of the nurse as Staff Nurse until after the result of her final examination has been received. The hardship to the nurse of such a course is too obvious to need emphasis. She would leave hospital with no qualification and, even if she passed the final examination, and came back to the hospital, the total period of her training would be extended to about 4½ years.

"Under the old regulation there was sometimes difficulty, but the new regulation very greatly increases the difficulties of nurses, and of the two reasons advanced for it in the second paragraph of the circular referred to above, it may be said that the first is really an argument against the new regulation rather than for it. With regard to the second reason, it is submitted that there should not be any difficulty in devising a means to prevent nurses, who do not complete their training after having passed the final examination, from becoming registered.

"My Committee submit that a nurse should be allowed to sit for the final examination nearest to the date when she completes her training, without any question of her having to apply for special permission, and that the nurse should be registered only on receipt by the Council of a certificate from the training school that the nurse has completed the prescribed period of training."

On the 5th October, 1927, the Education and Examination Committee of the General Nursing Council received a deputation from the Association, consisting of Mrs. Croucher, Dr. J. D. Williams, Dr. J. B. Williamson, and Mr. T. Percival. After hearing the arguments put forward that the new Rule involved real hardship to nurses who would be deprived of about £9,000 a year under the new conditions, the committee informed the deputation that the Council could not see their way to alter the new Rule.

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