

## CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE GENERAL NURSING COUNCILS.

The Conference called by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, with representatives from the General Nursing Council for Scotland and the Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council (Northern Ireland) met at 20, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, June 23rd, 1928, at 10.30 a.m. The following were present:—

*General Nursing Council for England and Wales.*—Miss Musson (in the chair), Miss Cox-Davies, Mr. Blackman, Miss Bremner, Miss Brown, Dr. Buchan, Miss Bushby, Miss Cowlin, Dr. Fawcett, Lady Galway, Miss Haldane, Miss Hogg, Miss Lloyd Still, Miss Villiers, Dr. Worth.

*General Nursing Council for Scotland.*—Sir John Lorne MacLeod (chairman), Miss I. Davidson, Miss E. Edmondson, Col. D. J. MacIntosh, Mr. W. S. Farmer, Registrar.

*Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council.*—Dr. W. R. Dawson (chairman).

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Gullan, Mr. Harper, Miss Sparshott, Mr. Stratton, and Dr. Thomson.

After the chairman had thanked the representatives for coming to London to the conference there was considerable discussion on the four points put forward on the Agenda:—

(1) The reason why comparatively few mental nurses are entering for the State Examinations.

(2) Whether it is desirable to continue the one-portal examination for nurses in all branches of nursing.

(3) (a) Whether it is permissible under the Nurses' Registration Acts to accept for purposes of registration the examinations conducted by Voluntary Associations; and

(b) If permissible, would it be desirable to do so.

(4) Whether it is desirable to continue the present method of appointing examiners for mental nurses.

The final conclusions were as follows:—

(1) That the higher fees charged by the General Nursing Councils for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland appeared to be one reason why mental nurses were taking the Royal Medico-Psychological Association's examinations rather than those of the State Nursing Councils, but the conference were also unanimously of opinion that the advantages of being registered and of passing an entirely independent examination had not been fully explained to the nurses in mental hospitals.

(2) It was unanimously decided that it was desirable to continue the one-portal examination (*i.e.*, the same Preliminary Examination for admission to the General or to any Supplementary Part of the Register).

(3) (a) As it is debatable whether it is legally permissible under the Nurses' Registration Acts to accept the examination of any outside body, the conference could not come to any decision on this point.

(b) The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this Conference of the three Nursing Councils for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, regard it as impossible to accept the Certificate of another examining body outside itself for the purposes of registration."

(4) It was also agreed that it was desirable for the present to continue the present method of appointing examiners for mental nurses.

The representatives present agreed to recommend to their Councils that they should not conclude any agreement with the Royal Medico-Psychological Association without first informing the other Nursing Councils.

## "WHAT I HAVE I HOLD."

We feel sure this Report will be read by Registered Nurses with relief. After the long and costly struggle for Registration, through the one portal system, to be deprived of this sound method of professional organisation upon the demand of a Society of Medical Superintendents of Mental Hospitals, upon which Mental Nurses have no representation, or power, would be a terrible reflection upon the stability and integrity of the General Nursing Councils.

Such a division of authority as proposed by Professor George Robertson would deprive Mental Nurses of equal rights and status under the Nurses Registration Acts with their colleagues in other branches of Nursing, and of an independent curriculum and examination. This demand reverts to the policy of the old Nurses' Directory Bill (1908), finally defeated by the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts in 1919.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The King and the Queen have graciously signified that they will give their patronage to the Hertford British Hospital, a famous institution on the outskirts of Paris, which for nearly sixty years has ministered to the pressing needs of British people in France.

The Hertford British Hospital, founded by Sir Richard Wallace during the siege of Paris by the Germans in 1871, is managed by a Committee chosen from among well-known British residents in Paris. The British Ambassador in Paris is Honorary President. Having earned the great good will and support of Lord Crewe, and his predecessor, Lord Derby, the hospital will now enjoy the help of the new Ambassador, Sir William Tyrrell, who recently expressed his desire to aid the hospital in every possible way when he takes up his duties in September.

It was early in January, 1871, during the most distressing period of the German siege, that Sir Richard Wallace, son of the Marquis of Hertford, and afterwards to be known as the donor of the Wallace Collection, opened two wards for the reception of sick British poor, adjoining his hospital for the wounded in the rue d'Aguesseau. At the same place he established a dispensary, where out-patients, civil and military, daily received gratuitous medicine and advice.

As early as October, 1871, Sir Richard Wallace invited the British Consul and two great British physicians to receive from him the management of a hospital which, in memory of his father, he was determined to build and endow in Paris for the medical and surgical treatment of poor British subjects.

Having made this great gift, which was opened in 1879 on a beautiful site of four acres just outside the fortifications of Paris, Sir Richard Wallace left the hospital to his widow who, in 1892, handed it to the British Government, which has ever since been Trustee for the property.

During the recent visit of the Duke and Duchess of York to Tyneside the Duchess at the Hippodrome Theatre received from children 300 purses on behalf of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, the Princess Mary Maternity Home, and the Fleming Memorial Hospital. Her Royal Highness also accepted on behalf of Princess Elizabeth a Noah's ark with 34 hand carved animals.

Princess Mary Viscountess Lascelles recently visited Plymouth and laid the foundation stone of a new wing at the South Devon and Cornwall Hospital, and received contributions amounting to £550 for the endowment of a Princess Mary cot in the children's ward.

The Princess also, on a recent visit to Cardiff, laid the foundation stone of the new Poor Law hospital at Llan-

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