

464. Eighty-three permits were issued for the State Uniform.

#### RETENTION FEES, 1928.

The Committee reported: Forms issued—Home, 50,223 on August 31st; Foreign and Colonial, 1,438 on August 9th, 20th, 28th. Total 51,661.

Fees received—From September 1st to 29th, 39,808; from October 1st to 8th, 5,363. Total 45,171.

Average number received each day—First week, 2,272; Second week, 1,571.

Retention Fees received before Forms issued—April 1st to August 31st, 1,071.

#### The State Uniform.

On the recommendation of the Uniform Committee the applications of four Registered Nurses for duplicate permits to obtain the State Registered Uniform were granted, the loss of the permits having been reported six months ago.

#### Disciplinary Case.

The case of Miss Mary Dickin, S.R.N. 49459, was then considered.

Mr. Pitt, of the firm of Pontifex, Pitt & Johnson, presented the case, which was that Mary Dickin had been taken into custody charged with stealing a watch, and that she admitted the theft. Mr. Pitt stated that he had presented the facts to the last meeting of the Council, and there was nothing more to say.

The Council then deliberated for a prolonged period *in camera*, and the following decision was subsequently communicated to the Press:

#### Resolution.

“That Mary Dickin, S.R.N. 49459 has been found guilty of misconduct, and that her name be removed from the Register.”

#### Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for November 23rd.

### POINTS TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

After the long spell of consideration given by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to the case of Mary Dickin, S.R.N., at its meetings on September 28th and October 19th, we trust that for the future the Council will adopt the simple and straightforward methods of the General Medical Council and the Central Midwives Board in such cases.

The procedure of both bodies in relation to Penal Cases is that the facts are printed and circulated to members of the Council, or Board, beforehand, and they are presented by its solicitor at the meeting convened to hear the case. In the main, and in general, cases are not heard *in camera*, and the particulars are in the hands of the Press. The accused person may present his own case, or be represented by his solicitor. When the facts are before them the case is debated *in camera*, after which the Press is re-admitted and a note taken of the decision.

If the case is one in which the offence has already been proved before a legal body, the Central Midwives Board not infrequently decides forthwith without calling on the Press to retire, when the formula used is that “the Board find the charges proved, and that the Secretary be directed to remove the name of (Mary Jones) from the Roll and to cancel her certificate,” a much more precise formula than the Resolution passed by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales under similar circumstances on October 19th, which neither directs who shall remove the name or what shall be done with the certificate.

The case of Mary Dickin has been under consideration for months. Why? She was accused of thieving and proved to be a thief. Why therefore should months of enquiry

and meetings and discussions *in camera*, be necessary unless a minority of the Council were averse to doing justice to the Nursing Profession as a whole by removing her name from the Register, a pusillanimous attitude, most injurious to the discipline of the Nursing Profession and the protection of the public.

The name of one thief (Elizabeth Shand, No. 39279) still degrades the State Register, the General Nursing Council having, with reprehensible contempt for the status and honour of the Nursing Profession, retained the name on the Register after she had been proved guilty of theft.

It is well that this mistaken policy has not been repeated under similar circumstances.

The honourable band of women known to the public as Registered Nurses do not intend to substitute on their Badge the broad arrow for the symbolical figure of Hygeia.

### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was held at 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, October 26th; in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Dr. R. C. Buist was called to the chair.

A letter was submitted from the Clerk to Kirkcaldy District Committee of Fife County Council applying for recognition of Kirkcaldy District Infectious Diseases Hospital, Thornton, as a Training School for Fever Nurses. The matter was continued until the Council's usual questionnaire had been filled up by the Hospital.

It was reported that a reply had been received from the Secretary of the Scottish Division of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association stating that none of the dates suggested by the Council for the proposed meeting with representatives of that Association suited his Committee. It was remitted to the Chairman to fix other suitable dates further ahead.

The name of Dr. Arthur Douglas Briggs, Glasgow, was added to the Panel of Examiners.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee it was resolved to invest the sum of £1,500.

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

#### THE ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

##### Opening of St. John the Baptist's Home.

His Eminence, Cardinal Bourne, gave a short address when he opened St. John the Baptist's Home which is approaching its completion and is to be run in close connection with the Italian Hospital at Queen Square, Bloomsbury. His Eminence was received by the Reverend Mother (Matron of the hospital), Lord Fitzalan and Dr. Stark Currie, a Member of the Hon. Medical Staff. Lord Fitzalan, in introducing the Cardinal, stated that the new building had been started with the purpose of providing a Home for the Nurses and, in another department, wards for convalescent and chronic patients. The progress made, in connection with the scheme, had been very satisfactory, and his Lordship considered that the new buildings would prove an immense asset to the Italian Hospital, although they were not to be regarded actually as its own property; they would reserve an independence of their own.

His Eminence, in declaring the hospital open, said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to open the Home, because he had the deepest respect for the Sisters of Charity who undertook the nursing of that most beneficent institution, the Italian Hospital. He would like to see Members of the Order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in every parish in his diocese, and he could not speak too highly of the magnificent work which they accomplished

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)