

in the service of the sick and afflicted throughout the ages would be suitable additions. The Life of Florence Nightingale, our great pioneer, will be the foundation of this section, and that most interesting and delightful life by Sir Edward Cook was very fittingly the first book to be devoted to the Library. A large photograph of Mrs. Grace Neill will hang in the Library, and will be a constant reminder of the one who long ago obtained State recognition for New Zealand Nurses.

#### THE NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF CHINA.

The Biennial Conference of the Nurses' Association of China was held in Shanghai, at the China New Year time—January 18th to 24th. Of this the Quarterly Journal of the N.A.C. writes:—"Since it has been decided to hold our next N.A.C. Conference in the city of Shanghai, our thoughts have turned many times to that other Conference held in Shanghai in 1914. What a contrast, our N.A.C. then and now! Then our only Chinese member, Elsie Mowfung Chung (now Mrs. Bayard Lyon) was with us and gave us the 'word' for 'Nurse.' Now it is used all over China and has gone into the language of the common people as well as into all literature. Then we had no Registered Schools. Now we have 125. Then we had no N.A.C. graduates. Now we have fifteen hundred. Then we had only one small book on Nursing. Now look at our list of four pages of text-books in the Chinese language in this number of our own official *Journal*! Then our little Association was practically unknown. Now we have full membership in the International Council of Nurses. Then our *only* property was the pencil and notebook belonging to the Secretary. Now we have two full-time Secretaries, a building site valued at ten thousand dollars, with definite plans for our future Headquarters Building, and a Nationwide programme being carried out by our own N.A.C. graduates. Then hopes, dreams, visions, faith. Now those hopes and dreams are glad realities through our visions and faith."

We await with interest the report of the Conference, which was presided over by Miss Lillian Wu, R.N.

#### LEGAL MATTERS.

##### A HABITUAL CRIMINAL.

A woman of many aliases, and a most amazing record of crime, giving the name of Helen Eileen Sinclair, was convicted at the London Sessions of a series of thefts, and on a charge of false pretences and sentenced to 21 months' hard labour.

For twenty-two years she has been in and out of prison, and has been convicted of theft, fraud, and bigamy. Amongst other aliases she at one time assumed that of Sister Leslie, M.A., and wore the robes of Edinburgh University.

In March, 1920, she was sentenced at Durham Assizes to three years' penal servitude, and five years' preventive detention, for theft, and as a habitual criminal.

Released in 1927, she obtained employment in a Nursing Home, stole the badge and medal of a Guy's Nurse, had her own name substituted for that of its owner, and on the strength of it obtained employment.

Recently, we understand, she acquired the badge of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, an incident which should impress upon Registered Nurses the importance of safeguarding their property, and the honour of their profession in this connection.

We have on various occasions over a long term of years reported the misdemeanours of this criminal, and in 1915 recorded the opinion of Sir Thomas Clouston that she was morally insane, a danger to society, and wholly incapable of distinguishing right from wrong.

Surely this morally deficient woman should be placed permanently in suitable care.

#### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The eighty-ninth meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, was held on Friday, March 16th, at 20 Portland Place, London, W.1. Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., Chairman of the Council, presided.

##### Correspondence.

Apologies for absence were received from Lady Barrett, Miss Sparshott, Mr. Stratton, Miss Wilson and Dr. Worth.

The following letter dated February 24th, 1928, from the Registrar, Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council, Northern Ireland, 118, Great Victoria Street, Belfast, was received:—

DEAR MADAM,—Your letter of December 21st, 1927, enclosing copy of correspondence passing between your Council and the Ministry of Health with reference to recognition of Hastings Borough Isolation Hospital as a training school for Fever Nurses was submitted to my Council, and I was directed to forward you the enclosed resolution which they passed at their last meeting.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) M. C. POOLE, Registrar.

##### RESOLUTION REFERRED TO.

"That the Joint Council is in cordial agreement with the General Nursing Council of England and Wales in the view that a sufficient daily average number of patients in a hospital, irrespective of the nominal bed accommodation, is essential for the recognition of such hospital as a training school for any class of nurses, and they regard the minimum daily average usually required by the General Nursing Council, of 45 patients for a general hospital and 35 for a fever hospital, as proper and reasonable."

##### Finance.

The Finance Committee reported "that the Bills and Claims submitted for payment be approved, and that the sum of £20 for Insurance Stamps, £10 for Petty Cash, and £5,500 for Examiners' claims and expenses in connection with the February, 1928, Examinations be allowed."

The Committee raised no objections to Recommendations 9, 10, and 11 of the General Purposes Committee. These were (9) "That the Council's Offices be closed for Easter Holiday from mid-day on Thursday, April 5th, until Tuesday morning, April 10th." (10) "That the following estimates of Messrs. Hammond and Champness, Ltd., be accepted: (a) Cleaning down gear and all working parts of hand-power lift, including adjustment of self-sustaining gear, and supplying new lifting rope, etc., for £4 7s. 9d. (b) Supplying new white yacht manila hauling rope, for £3 12s. (c) Quarterly inspection, cleaning, oiling and adjusting lift, for £3 per annum." (11) "That a second Graphotype Machine be purchased for the Registration Department at a cost of £35."

##### Registration.

The Registration Committee reported that they had considered a letter, dated January 21st, 1928, from the Secretary, Natal Medical Council. They recommended:—

"That the General Nursing Council for England and Wales agrees to accept for Registration by Reciprocity:—

(1) Nurses trained in a General Hospital and registered by Examination on the General Part of the Register of Nurses of the Natal Medical Council.

(2) Nurses trained in England and Wales in a General Hospital approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and registered on the General Part of the Register of Nurses of the Natal Medical Council:

on the understanding that nurses registered by Examination or as "Intermediate" Nurses on the General Part of the Register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will be accepted for registration by the Natal Medical Council and, further, that applications from "Existing" Nurses will be considered on their respective merits."

The Recommendation was approved.

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