

**Legal Protection.**

Many applications for legal advice and help have been received, and this branch of the work of the College has proved its usefulness. Regulations for Defence and Protection have been drafted and adopted by the Council, a copy of which is sent to Fellows and Members who apply for advice and help.

**Legislation.**

The Council has carefully watched all proposed Legislation in Parliament likely to affect Nursing and Nurses, in order to promote the interests of the community and the Nursing Profession, and should it be necessary to take action in regard to any Bill which might prejudice their interests.

**Mental Nurses.**

The proposal of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, that its Examination should be recognised as an entrance to the State Register of Nurses, trained in the nursing of Mental Diseases, has had the consideration of the Council, and a Conference between Members of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association and the Council, was held on January 18th at 39, Portland Place, W.1.

The following Resolution passed unanimously at a Special Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was forwarded to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on May 22nd, 1929, with the request that it be submitted at the earliest possible opportunity:

"That the Council of the British College of Nurses do forthwith communicate to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales its considered opinion that the demand of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association to have its examination for Mental Nurses recognised as a portal of admission to the State Register of Nurses, is one which, if conceded, will inevitably destroy the whole principle of the one-portal system of admission to the State Register, a system which is held to be fundamental to the efficient functioning of the Registration Act.

"The establishment of any precedent whereby a voluntary body shall be empowered to obtain for itself such a privilege, would tend to dissipate the powers of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales to maintain full control of the Register of which Parliament has appointed it the custodian. Furthermore, if the demand of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association be conceded, other bodies might, on such precedent, make claims that their examinations should qualify for admission to the State Register, and in time all uniformity of nursing educational standards would cease to exist.

"On these grounds Registered Nurses would regard any delegation of power by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in connection with its examinations, as a grave betrayal of the rights of the Nursing Profession secured by Act of Parliament."

The Resolution was considered with other communications opposing the proposal of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association at the Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, on May 24th, 1929, and it is satisfactory to learn that it was agreed to inform the Royal Medico-Psychological Association that "The General Nursing Council regret that they are unable to accept the proposals of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association."

**Legislation for Sufferers from Encephalitis Lethargica.**

A Statement emphasising the urgent necessity for Protective Legislation for sufferers from post-Encephalitis Lethargica has been drafted and was forwarded by the Council to the Rt. Honble. Sir William Joynson-Hicks, M.P., Secretary of State for Home Affairs in the late Government, who was asked to receive a deputation to place before him the pressing necessity for such legislation.

As this petition, transferred by the Home Office to the Ministry of Health, was not acceded to, the Council has decided to forward the Statement to the Rt. Honble. John Clynes, M.P., Secretary of State for Home Affairs, and to the Rt. Honble. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., Minister of Health, whose sympathetic interest in the subject it is hoped will be enlisted.

Your Council intends to give all possible publicity to the matter in the hope of effecting reform.

*Nursing Reform in connection with Poor Law* has been considered by a Special Committee, and its considered opinion was sent to the Rt. Honble. Arthur Neville Chamberlain, M.P., Minister of Health.

**Central Midwives Board.**

By request the Council has been in communication with the Central Midwives Board, and attention has been drawn to the great inconvenience resulting in Institutions where adequate theoretical teaching can be given to Pupil Midwives, owing to the requirements of the Central Midwives Board that they shall attend central classes for this purpose.

The following reply was received:—

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD,

1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings,  
Westminster, S.W.1.

Dear Madam,

I have to inform you that the Board has had under consideration your letter of the 18th inst. with regard to the Board's policy in the matter of centralization of lecture classes, and that in connection therewith it has passed the following Resolution:—

That the Secretary of the British College of Nurses be informed that the experience of the Board is not in accordance with that indicated in the letter, and that the Board



MISS ELIZABETH KENNEDY, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.,  
Elected Member of Council of British College of Nurses,  
July, 1929.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)