

Mental Nursing.

The Mental Nursing Committee reported that they had met once.

Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported that the correspondence dealt with on the office between October 1st and 31st, 1929, amounted to letters received 11,285, letters despatched 26,269, that the interviews numbered 93, that 118 permits had been issued for the State Uniform, that Miss Sparshott had been co-opted a member of the General Purposes Committee in place of Miss Bremner, resigned.

It was decided that the offices should be closed from midday Tuesday, December 24th, for the Christmas holiday, till Monday, December 30th, the Finance Committee offering no objection.

The State Uniform.

It was agreed to grant duplicate permits to four Nurses to obtain the State Uniform, the loss of these having been reported six months ago.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for December 20th and the Press then withdrew.

THE STATE EXAMINATIONS.

The results of the State Examinations are as under:—

PRELIMINARY STATE EXAMINATION, OCTOBER, 1929.

	Entered.	Absent.	Present.	Passed.	Failed
Complete Examination ...	2,386	103	2,283	1,716	567
Re-entries for Part Examination ...	268	7	261	137	124
Percentage of Failures: Complete Examination, 24.8 per cent.; Re-entries for Part Examination, 47.6 per cent.					

FINAL STATE EXAMINATIONS, OCTOBER, 1929.

Examination.	General Register.	Supplementary Parts of the Register.				
		Male Nurses.	Mental Nurses.	Sick Children's Nurses.	Fever Nurses.	
Entered—						
Whole ...	1,607	3 } 3	25 } 29	87 } 110	196 } 222	
Part ...	246	—	4	23	26	
Absent—						
Whole ...	35	—	3	2	5	
Part ...	5	—	2	1	1	
Present—						
Whole ...	1,572	3 } 3	22 } 24	85 } 107	191 } 216	
Part ...	241	—	2	22	25	
Passed—						
Whole ...	1,126	3 } 3	19 } 21	63 } 77	144 } 162	
Part ...	148	—	2	14	18	
Failed—						
Whole ...	446	—	3 } 3	22 } 30	47 } 54	
Part ...	93	—	—	8	7	
Percentages of Failures—						
Whole ...	28.3%	—	13.6%	25.8%	24.6%	
Part ...	38.6%	—	—	36.8%	28%	

THE DEGRADATION OF THE STATE REGISTER OF NURSES.

It will be noted that at the November meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales the Chairman announced that two letters had been received relative to a disciplinary case in which judgment had been deferred, and made a statement which will be found on page 337 in the Report of that Meeting. This decision was subsequently communicated to the bodies concerned.

The two bodies which sent letters of protest are the Royal British Nurses' Association and the British College of Nurses.

Resolution passed by the Council of the British College of Nurses, November 23rd, 1929.

At a meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, held at 39, Portland Place, W.1, on November 23rd, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted, and a copy was sent to the Chairman and members of the General Nursing Council.

"That the Council of the British College of Nurses learns with indignation that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales has decided, for the second time, to retain the name of a nurse, proved to be a thief in a Court of Law, on the State Register of Nurses.

"The Council of the British College of Nurses is of opinion that the policy of the General Nursing Council in this connection is calculated to lower the moral standard of the Nursing Profession and to deprive the public of protection from criminal persons acting as Registered Nurses."

To which communication the following reply was received from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council, dated November 29th:—

Reply from the General Nursing Council.

DEAR MADAM,—I am directed by the Chairman to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 26th, addressed to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council, enclosing copy of Resolution unanimously agreed at a meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses on November 23rd, relating to a disciplinary case on which the General Nursing Council, acting under Rule 22, deferred judgment until October, 1930.

The Chairman has been legally advised that until the Council pronounces its final decision this case remains *sub judice*, and further that it would be improper for her to publish or to present to the Council letters which might bias the independent judgment of members of Council who are in the position of jury. The reading of your letter to the Council will, therefore, be deferred until the Council gives its final decision.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. S. RIDDELL, Registrar.

Members of General Nursing Council addressed individually.

On December 6th the Secretary of the British College of Nurses sent the following letter to the Members of the General Nursing Council individually:—

6th December, 1929.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—I beg to enclose you a copy of the Resolution which was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Council of this College on Saturday, November 23rd, and which was forwarded to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

We are informed by the Registrar, "That it would be improper for the Chairman to publish or present to the Council letters which might bias the independent judgment of Members of the Council who are in the position of jury."

As the Council of this College, and no doubt the large majority of its Fellows and Members, consider that Registered Nurses have a right to express their opinions to their Governing Body, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, under the Nurses' Registration Act, I am by the direction of my Council forwarding to you a copy of the Resolution so that you may realise how strong the feeling is against the retention of criminals on the Register of Nurses by the General Nursing Council.

I am,

Dear Sir or Madam,

Yours faithfully,

GRACE REYNOLDS HALE,

Secretary.

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