

Board for a period of three years. In Helsingfors, the superintendents of nurses of both the Surgical and the Medical University Hospitals shall be members of the Training School Committee of the State School of Nursing.

The Schools of Nursing will be supervised by a Nurse Inspector, appointed by the Medical Board. She must be informed of all meetings of the Training School Committees and is entitled to attend them.

It is interesting to learn that the four schools for deaconesses in Finland—until now the only private schools of nursing in the country—have immediately decided to change their curriculum and organisation so as to comply with the requirements of the Nursing Act.

Miss Venny Snellman, formerly Director of the Nursing Service of General Mannerheim's League of Child Welfare, has been appointed Inspector of Training Schools.

Would that Baroness Mannerheim could have lived to see the achievement of her purpose.

ESTONIA.

The Committee of Nurses of the Baltic States of which Mrs. Celmin is President and Miss Kushke Secretary, have decided to summon a general Congress of Nurses in the Baltic States in 1931, to which nurses from Finland and Poland are to be invited. There was no final decision as to the place where the Congress should be held.

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

The Annual Report of the Association of Hospital Matrons for the year ending July 30th, 1930, has the following note on the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain:—"The work of the National Council of Nurses ever increases in importance as the International Council adds to its membership fresh countries, bringing with them problems to be solved, and pioneer work to be assisted."

Amongst the subjects considered by the Executive Committee during the year were:—

(1) The One-portal Examination for the Nursing Profession (with special reference to the registration of Mental Nurses) in view of a notice which had been given to introduce into Parliament a Private Member's Bill to enable Nurses holding the certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association to be registered upon the Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Trained Nurses without further examination. (Ultimately the Bill was not proceeded with.) The following principle was laid down and unanimously agreed to:—

"That the One-portal Examination must be maintained, and that to substitute the Examination of a Voluntary Society for that of the Statutory Body would be to deprive the Mental Trained Nurses of the privileges enjoyed by all other branches of the Profession."

(2) The best method of securing even distribution of practical work in the Probationer's training.

(3) The advisability of Ward Sisters undertaking practical demonstrations in special subjects for candidates taking the State Final Examination.

THE MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The 30th Quarterly Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association will be held on September 13th at Menston Mental Hospital near Leeds, preceded by a meeting of the Executive Committee, when an address on "Examinations" will be given by Dr. Edgerley, Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

THE MENTAL HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WORKERS' UNION.

THE NATIONAL ASYLUM WORKERS' UNION.

The Sixteenth Annual Conference of the National Asylum Workers' Union was held on July 9th and 10th, at the Aquarium Theatre, Great Yarmouth, and is reported at length in the *National Asylums Workers' Magazine*. In the course of the proceedings questions of the utmost importance to the Nursing Profession, and especially to Mental Nurses, were discussed, with which we deal in our editorial article on page 225.

In the Report of the National Executive Council the following paragraph occurs:—

R.M.P.A. AND GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

We regret that no solution of the problems of registration and examination as between these two bodies has yet been arrived at. Important conversations have taken place between the Mental Hospitals Association and the R.M.P.A. and the N.A.W.U. with regard to this matter, and it is hoped that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at.

Arising from the report:—

Mr. HARRISON (Napsbury): With reference to the paragraph on the R.M.P.A. and the General Nursing Council, we are fully aware of what has happened during the past 12 months in connection with the Royal Medico-Psychological Association and the General Nursing Council, but there is an attitude on the part of the N.E.C. that our members are not quite satisfied with, and that is that after the inception of the General Nursing Council the Union advised its members to take this matter very strongly to heart, as it was the opinion of the National Executive Council that the General Nursing Council would do a lot of good to the Union members. The action of the N.E.C. in now withdrawing the expenses of our delegates to the G.N.C. is not agreeable—there are people besides ourselves who are affected—and these expenses having been withdrawn, it appears in the mind of the average member that the support of the Union has been withdrawn from the General Nursing Council. We feel that the N.E.C. should give us some report on this matter: we have neither of our G.N.C. representatives present to report, and we desire that this should be referred back to the N.E.C. to give us a report and define a policy which our delegates could stick to, and then, instead of withdrawing the expenses of the delegates, we could at least replace them at the end of the five years' term.

Mr. FOLLETT (Leavesden) seconded the reference back.

CHAIRMAN: I think in connection with this point the General Secretary can give an explanation of the developments that have taken place.

Mr. GIBSON: It is perfectly true that the Executive Council of the Union has for years supported, and still supports, the principle of registration of nurses, but that does not necessarily involve the support of an autocratic nursing council—the support of a principle does not mean the support of a particular body. We did not anticipate when we supported the registration policy, at the time the G.N.C. was formed, that there would be a permanent majority of matrons and non-elected persons on the council, or that the fees would reach the exorbitant level at which they now stand. What the Executive Council has done has been in pursuance of the decisions of the Annual Conference, and in view of the fact that Mr. Blackman got up and spoke against the recorded decisions of Conference, we felt it essential to ask him to record his votes in support of our policy. Mr. Blackman, quite conscientiously, found himself unable to do so, and the N.E.C. felt, therefore, that it was unable to continue to pay expenses to persons who did not represent the recorded views of the Union. Consequently, after a considerable period spent in trying to get our policy expounded, the N.E.C. decided to discontinue the payment of expenses, and duly informed Mr. Blackman of the fact. Mr. Blackman, in writing, expressed his surprise, and said he had pursued the same policy throughout, and asked me to let him know what the complaint was, when he would be quite prepared to appear before the National Executive Council. I sent him the minute, and also the complaint, quoting from the reports of the various Conferences. In reply to my letter Mr. Blackman wrote on May 24th, 1930, expressing his

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