

A Standard of Knowledge for Nurse Examiners.

2. Miss M. S. Riddell, Registrar General Nursing Council for England and Wales, acknowledged, as instructed by the Chairman, the copy of the Resolution, stating that in the opinion of the Council of the British College of Nurses, "it is desirable that Nurse Examiners to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales should be required to pass an appropriate examination before being eligible for appointment."

The President hoped that the Resolution would be placed before the Members of the General Nursing Council to whom it was addressed.

NOTE TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

By direction of the Council the following Note had been sent to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women on its Memorandum, submitted to the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing.

NOTE.

The Council of the British College of Nurses desire to acknowledge that the Memorandum on the Recruitment, Training and Conditions of Service for the Nursing Profession, submitted by the National Council of Women of Great Britain to the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing, contains useful suggestions, but it regrets that the National Council of Women did not, when drafting the Memorandum, consult the Associations of Nurses affiliated with it on matters concerning the economic and educational conditions of the Nursing Profession.

Thus under the heading of Suggested Remedies:

1. Educational.

In regard to the suggestion that a course of study partly theoretical and partly practical should form an optional part of the School Curriculum for girls from 16 to 18 years, the National Council of Women is apparently under a misapprehension as to what is included in the Preliminary Training required by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, namely, a course in hospital, covering, as a rule, eighteen months, during which time the probationer is engaged daily in becoming proficient in the practice of simple nursing procedures, a chart being kept and marked by the sister of the ward, recording either that the nurse has been shown, but is not proficient in the nursing procedure, or that she has been taught, and is proficient in the same.

In addition, the theoretical training includes the subjects of Elementary Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene, and the Theory and Practice of Nursing. To suppose therefore that the school certificate can carry exemption from the preliminary examination of the General Nursing Council

is altogether to misunderstand its scope. There is no analogy between the education of a probationary nurse and that of clerical clerks qualifying for secretarial work.

There is also another very important reason why the school certificate should not carry exemption from the preliminary examination of the General Nursing Council. Great importance is attached to the one portal system of entrance to the Nursing Profession, and if the proposal of the National Council of Women were adopted this valuable rule of admission would be completely broken down.

The two years' course leading up to the school certificate might nevertheless afford excellent preparation for girls from secondary schools who contemplate adopting nursing as their profession, and as its value came to be known

matrons of Nurse Training Schools might no doubt give preferential treatment to candidates who could give proof that they hold this certificate.

The Council of the British College of Nurses has under consideration the establishment of such a Central School, and the establishment of others throughout the country, on approved lines, would doubtless be of benefit.

3. Improvement in Professional Conditions.

(b) The Council warmly approves that a General Pension Scheme should be continuous, as between work in a Voluntary Hospital, under a Local Authority, but is opposed:

(c) to a "living-out" basis for salaries, as it considers that residence in a hostel—preferably termed a college—attached to the hospital is the only system whereby the patients can obtain regular and efficient attendance in sick wards.

(d) The Council agree with the opinion expressed by the National Council of Women in their Memorandum in regard to semi-trained "assistant nurses" and untrained "nurse attendants"

Many members of the medical profession and of

the public still apparently do not appreciate the importance and value of the State Register of Nurses, and both indiscriminately employ semi-trained on an equality with, or in place of, State Registered Nurses.

DINNER IN HONOUR OF Mlle. CHAPTAL.

The President reported a letter from her old friend Mlle. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses, notifying a visit to London on League of Nations business, and that she had accepted an invitation to Dinner with the Hon. Officers of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, on Thursday, May 21st, at the Park Lane Hotel, W.; the company would number about 20.



Photo: Stuart.]

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Member of Council, July, 1931, British College of Nurses.

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