

Nurses and Assistant Nurses in Municipal Hospitals, at half the fee of Private Registered Nurses averted.

THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

The Council at its Meeting on March 21st adopted the following Resolution, which had been sent to the Minister of Health, the Royal Commission on Local Government Officers, the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, the National Council of Women of Great Britain, and has also been given other publicity:—

"That the Council of the British College of Nurses is of opinion that all new entrants to appointments under the Public Health Service, such as Health Visitors, Superintendents of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Tuberculosis Visitors, School Nurses, Municipal Midwives and Infant Life Protection Visitors, should be Nurses with a three years' qualification of training, and who are Registered on the General Part of the State Register of Nurses.

"In addition to this basic qualification they should also hold the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board and a certificate recognised by the Ministry of Health for all Health Visitors as laid down in paragraph 8 of the Statutory Rules and Orders, 1930, No. 69."

DUAL INSURANCE IN MUNICIPAL HOSPITALS.

On the question of the payment of dual insurance in Municipal Hospitals, by the Nurses already insured under the Federated Scheme, the Council has communicated with the London County Council, pointing out the hardship of dual insurance, and urging that the matter be taken into consideration.

THE NECESSITY FOR FEMALE ATTENDANTS IN PUBLIC MORTUARIES.

At a meeting of the Council on April 18th, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted, and it was directed that it should be sent to responsible authorities:—

"That in the opinion of the Council of the British College of Nurses, decency demands that the handling of dead women in Public Mortuaries should be the duty of women, preferably State Registered Nurses, and not of male mortuary attendants."

This Resolution has been sent to the Minister of Health, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, also to the Coroners and Chairmen of the Borough Councils of the principal Towns throughout this country.

An encouraging number of replies have been received from Coroners in sympathy with the reform, but they were not all in favour of employing Registered Nurses.

"THE LANCET" COMMISSION ON NURSING.

A Commission was appointed with the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, P.C., K.T., F.R.S., as Chairman, in December, 1930, to enquire into the reasons for the shortage of candidates, trained and untrained, for nursing the sick in General and Special hospitals throughout the country, and to offer suggestions for making the service more attractive to women suitable for this necessary work.

An invitation to give evidence before the Commission was received by the President and Council of the College, and indeed pressed upon them, but in view of the fact that experts on Nursing Organisation were not included as members of the Commission, and whose help therefore will not be available in drafting the Report, the Council felt unable to accede to this request.

RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

A copy of 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, was forwarded by that Council to the Council of the British College of Nurses, which in acknowledging noted that it contained useful suggestions,

but expressed its regret that when drafting it the National Council of Women did not consult the Associations of Nurses affiliated with it on matters concerning the economic and educational conditions of the Nursing Profession. It also disapproved of certain recommendations calculated to abolish the one portal to the State Register.

Disease and Crime.

The Council has maintained its interest in the study of Disease and Crime, concerning which it has received valuable information from Members of the Medical Profession.

Distinguished Visitors.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., Duchess of Fife, on November 26th honoured the British College of Nurses by presiding at a Lecture on Nursing History, delivered by Miss Isabel Macdonald.

The Princess was received by the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and the Councillors in their Robes of Office, and was presented by Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Matron of Charing Cross Hospital and Vice-President of the College, with a lovely bouquet of geranium red carnations, and conducted to the Council Chamber, where she signed her name in the Distinguished Visitors' Book.

At the conclusion of the Lecture, Her Royal Highness visited the various departments of the College, and took tea in the Club Room before leaving.

Eminent nurses from many parts of the world have visited the College and signed the Distinguished Visitors' Book, among whom were Mlle. Chaptal, President of the International Council of Nurses; Miss Effie J. Taylor, R.N., M.A., Associate Professor, Yale University School of Nursing; Miss Mary M. Roberts, R.N., Editor, American Journal of Nursing; Mrs. Carrington Smith, Gold Medalist of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, and a kind hostess during the International Congress of Nurses in Montreal in 1929; Miss B. G. Alexander, President of the South African Trained Nurses' Association; and Mr. James K. C. Lui, a Chinese Male Nurse.

Local Consuls.

At a meeting of the Council on March 21st, Miss E. M. Trenaman, M.B.C.N., holding the post of Matron at the Lady Galway Convalescent Home, Henley Beach, South Australia, was unanimously elected Local Consul for the College in South Australia, in place of the late Miss W. Mullaney.

Lectures in the Provinces.

The Council has agreed that occasional Lectures given by a Member of the Council in the provinces would extend College activities, and hope to arrange a Lecture in Liverpool, when Miss E. J. Haswell, M.B.C.N., has kindly offered to act as hostess and organiser, and Miss I. Macdonald has generously volunteered to give a Lecture on Nursing History.

Obituary.

Miss Emily Cawthorne Field, F.B.C.N., died 22nd March, 1931, for many years Ward Sister at the Southwark Hospital, East Dulwich Grove, London.

Miss Clara Page, F.B.C.N., died 28th April, 1931, was Matron of various Fever Hospitals, and her last post was at the Isolation Hospital, Crewe.

Miss Emma Alice Cattell, F.B.C.N., died May 12th, 1931. She will be a great loss to the Nursing Profession, as she was a pioneer who worked for State Registration. She was a prominent member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and for many years had a visiting nursing practice in the West End of London.

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