

The rank and file of nurses are now keenly alive to the disadvantages under which they work, and unless Nursing Organisations are prepared to deal promptly with the matter, we fear undesirable legislation will be pushed through by the present Government, and that it will be strongly supported by nurses.

We are well aware that the reorganisation of the Nursing Profession to meet present-day demands is beset with difficulties, but it is urgent, both in the interests of the sick and the profession, that some solution should be attempted.

Trusting you will give this suggestion due consideration."

The Council carefully considered both Resolutions and agreed:

(a) To communicate with both Leagues, and to inform them that it was in sympathy with their proposals that the Nurses' Organisations should confer on the economic conditions of the Nursing Profession; and

(b) To take such united action as appeared advisable.

THE EDUCATIONAL STANDARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS.

In April last, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Council, and forwarded to "the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales":—

"That in the opinion of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Nurse Examiners to the General Nursing Council should be required to pass an appropriate examination before being eligible for appointment."

The following correspondence was reported on the matter:—

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1.
July 20th, 1931.

DEAR MADAM,

I forwarded to the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales a copy of a Resolution passed unanimously by the Council of the British College of Nurses at its meeting on Saturday, April 18th, 1931.

This Resolution was acknowledged by you on May 5th, 1931. I shall therefore be obliged if you will inform me when the Resolution was placed before the General Nursing Council for its consideration, and if it has not been submitted to it, the reason why it has been withheld.

As my Council meets on Saturday, July 25th, an early reply will oblige.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
ALICE STEWART BRYSON, *Secretary*.

To
Miss M. S. Riddell, R.R.C.,
The Registrar,
The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales,
20, Portland Place, London, W.1.
July 21st, 1931.

DEAR MADAM,

In reply to your letter of July 20th, I am instructed to inform you that your letter of May 4th, conveying a Resolution passed by the Council of the British College of Nurses on April 18th last, was laid before the Education and Examination Committee.

The Committee believe that it is not a proceeding of any University or other Educational body to subject its examiners to a special examination before being eligible for appointment.

The Committee further were of opinion that it would not at the present time be practicable to put such examination into effect, especially in view of the fact that the Council's Panel of Examiners includes both medical practitioners and nurses. The Council could not differentiate in their method of appointing Examiners to the Panel.

It was therefore not considered necessary to put the matter before Council.

Yours faithfully,
MARION S. RIDDELL, *Registrar*.

Miss A. S. Bryson, F.B.C.N., *Secretary*,
The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

Discussion took place on the reply from the Registrar, dated July 21st, 1931. The President emphasised the discourtesy with which the Council had been treated:

(a) In withholding from the General Nursing Council a communication from Registered Nurses addressed to their Governing Body, elected and entirely financed by them. In her opinion such communications, when addressed to it, should be brought before the statutory authority, and if considered advisable referred by it to a Standing Committee. Such Committees had no right whatever to deal with important communications addressed to the Council until referred; it was then the duty of a Standing Committee to consider matters referred, and report thereon to the Council. She strongly objected to officials and Committees having the power to suppress communications from organisations of Registered Nurses and relegate them to the waste paper basket.

(b) With the huge clerical staff employed by the General Nursing Council (upwards of fifty persons) there was no excuse whatever for failing to reply to communications from constituents of the General Nursing Council.

The communication extracted in reply to their letter of July 20th—three months after the Resolution had been sent—was totally irrelevant and far from satisfactory.

(1) University Examiners were qualified by examination before being appointed, and the Council's Panel Examiners included no medical practitioners who had not themselves been examined and approved by a statutory examination conducted by the Royal Colleges of Physicians or Surgeons. The British College of Nurses claimed that the knowledge of all Nurse Examiners should be tested in a like manner. At present there were Nurse Examiners on the Panel, who, trained in the past, were not competent to perform the duties delegated to them by the General Nursing Council, and it was time the examinees were justly treated in this connection.

The Revenue Account, 1931, of the General Nursing Council disclosed the expenditure of £16,716 14s. 2d. for Examiners' remuneration, contributed entirely by nurses, as the Nurses' Registration Act received no subsidy from the Treasury.

It was agreed to communicate again with the General Nursing Council, and urge action and reform on this matter.

A very large number of letters was placed before the Council, and action taken to help members *re* legal advice, grants, etc.

Thanks were sent to Miss Brodie for her admirable Report as delegate to the meeting of the National Council of Women at Aberdeen.

Election of Standing Committees, 1931—1932.

The following members of the Council were elected to form the Standing Committees for the year:—

EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.

The Hon. Officers—Chairman, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C.; Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss Norah Farrant, Miss D. K. Graham Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C.

POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL PROTECTION.

The Hon. Officers—Chairman, Miss M. Breay; Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C.

SOCIAL SCHEMES.

The Hon. Officers—Chairman, Miss K. A. Smith, R.R.C.; Miss A. M. Bright, Miss E. J. Haswell.

FINANCE.

The Hon. Officers—Chairman, Dr. Bedford Fenwick; Miss A. M. Bright, Miss A. M. Bushby.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)