

The following letter from the College of Nursing was considered :—

December 30th, 1931.

THE CHAIRMAN,
The General Nursing Council.
Dear Madam,

A Nurse's general training—and a wider knowledge of all branches of disease.

At a recent conference of medical officers of health, at which the College of Nursing was represented, a discussion took place on the basic training required by Health Visitors, and a suggestion was made of the desirability for all branches of diseases being covered in a Nurse's general training, as they are in the curriculum of the Medical Student.

On a report of the conference to the Education Committee of the College, a recommendation was made to the Council that the General Nursing Council be approached with a view to ascertaining the following :—

"Whether approval would be granted for a four years' general training to be taken in a general hospital and group of special hospitals, provided the subjects for the preliminary and final State Examinations were covered."

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, *Secretary.*

The reply, as follows, was approved :—

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE SECRETARY, The College of Nursing.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to your letter of December 30th, 1931, asking whether approval would be granted for a four years' general training to be taken in a general hospital and group of special hospitals, provided the subjects for the preliminary and final State Examinations were covered, I am instructed to say that the Council would certainly be willing to consider schemes of training put forward by a General Hospital and a group of Special Hospitals as qualifying candidates for admission to the Examinations for the General Part of the Register.

The Council has already outlined a number of schemes of affiliation, association and reciprocity between Hospitals, of which, up to the present, full advantage has not been taken. It has further expressed its willingness to consider varieties of such schemes if brought forward by Groups of Hospitals provided that a scheme of training for admission to the *General Part of the Register* shall include the nursing of men, women and children, and shall provide instruction in medical, surgical, gynaecological and children's diseases; not less than two years to be spent in the recognised complete training school. Provided the Council is satisfied that the training and instruction will be systematically carried out, it readily sanctions arrangements whereby Student Nurses are sent to Special Hospitals for experience in some branch of work in which the General Hospital may be deficient, e.g., in gynaecological or children's diseases, and it is also willing to consider Schemes which include experience in Fever Hospitals, which provide mainly medical nursing. Such schemes are actually in force.

The Council wishes to point out that it has no jurisdiction over the hospitals other than to recognise them or to refuse to recognise them as training schools. It cannot compel them to amalgamate one with another for the purpose of forming combined training schools.

It is hoped that under the new Local Government Act more combined schemes of training may be put forward by some of the County and County Borough authorities. Such combined training would qualify only for admission to the Examination for the General Part of the Register. The Council is of opinion that a certain continuity in training is not only desirable but necessary, and that to attempt to include every sort of experience (e.g., Midwifery, Mental and Public Health training) in four years would result in a lower standard of practical care of the sick. The Council's minimum term of training in a complete general training school is three years. The additional experience which may be afforded during the fourth year (i.e., after the requirements of the General Nursing Council have been complied with) to nurses who sign a contract for four years at such Training School, is not a matter over which this Council has any jurisdiction. It frequently includes training in Midwifery, the

qualification for which, as you are aware, is in the hands of another Body, and administrative or other experience outside the minimum requirements of the General Nursing Council.

Whereas Fever and Tuberculosis Hospitals, Children's, Gynaecological, Ophthalmic and other Special Hospitals engaged in the treatment of physical diseases may well be included in schemes of training for the General Part of the Register, the Mental Hospitals deal with disease of a different type, and the subject of Mental Disease and the care of mental patients is, in the Council's opinion, too wide to be adequately dealt with in a short period of three to six months. A course of clinical instruction, in the form of lectures or demonstrations, could such be arranged at a Mental Hospital, would no doubt be of great value to the General Trained Nurse but would not qualify her to take charge of patients with acute Mental Disease.

Yours faithfully,

MARIAN S. RIDDELL,

Registrar.

Mental Nursing

On the recommendation of the Mental Nursing Committee it was agreed "That the provisional approval granted to Ewell Mental Hospital, Epsom, be extended for a further period of one year, from April 25th, 1932."

In our notice of the State Register for 1932 the number of nurses registered by examination during 1931 on the Supplementary Parts of the Register was, by a printer's error, stated to be 88 instead of 867. We are pleased to note the increase.

Correspondence, Interviews and Permits.

The General Purposes Committee reported that the correspondence dealt with in the office between March 1st and 31st amounted to 6,087 letters received, 9,644 letters despatched, the interviews numbered 175, and 113 permits were issued for the State Uniform.

It was reported that Miss Mary E. Mure, S.R.N., has been appointed Principal Clerk in the Examinations Department.

It was recommended "That the following Equipment be purchased :—

"Desk for the Examinations Department, at a cost of £8 2s. 6d.

"That a Uniform suit be purchased for the Caretaker, at a cost of £5 17s. 6d."

State Registered Uniform.

On the recommendation of the Uniform Committee it was agreed to issue duplicate permits to obtain the State Registered Uniform to eleven nurses who had reported the loss of their permits six months ago.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, May 27th.

The meeting then terminated.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

In the absence of Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., the Chair was occupied by Col. D. J. MacKintosh, C.B., M.V.O., the Vice-Chairman of the Council, and 10 members of the Council were present.

The Report of the Education and Examination Committee was submitted and approved. It was resolved that subject to it being ascertained that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales were prepared to enter into a similar agreement, the Council should agree to reciprocal registration with the Medical Council of Southern Rhodesia, in regard to Registration of General Trained Nurses admitted to that Council's Register by Examination.

Approval was given to the names of a number of Nurses who had passed the Council's Examinations and had now reached the age of 21 being placed on the Register.

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