

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The one hundred and thirty-seventh meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 20, Portland Place, London, W.1, on July 22nd. The Chairman, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

### ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

Concerning the case of three nurses who had falsely represented themselves to be State Registered Nurses, as reported at the Meeting on June 24th, one had been convicted at Bournemouth, pleaded guilty, was fined £2 and ordered to pay £3 costs. The cases against the other two nurses are still proceeding.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### PRELIMINARY STATE EXAMINATION.

The Chairman read a letter from the Registrar of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, notifying the General Nursing Council for England and Wales that, after considering the Report of the *Lancet* Commission, it had been resolved that the Preliminary State Examination in Scotland should be divided into two parts.

In reply a letter had been written regretting that this new departure had been decided upon without consultation with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales because it jeopardised a uniform standard for registration. In a further reply the Registrar of the Scottish Council said that no further steps had been taken in the matter since the resolution had been passed.

#### FINANCE.

The Finance Committee submitted the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet, which was adopted.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Council passed the following Resolution:—

"That the fee for re-entering for the Preliminary and Final State Examinations be 6d. per subject in place of half the examination fee, and that the Regulations for Conduct of the State Examinations be amended accordingly."

After consultation with the Council's Bankers, the Chairman of Council and Chairman of Finance Committee were authorised to invest the sum of £2,500.

#### REGISTRATION.

The Committee reported that the numbers of successful candidates at the May Examinations who were approved for registration on June 24th were as follows: General Part of the Register, 1,474. Supplementary Parts of the Register: Male Nurses, 3; Mental Nurses, 58; Sick Children's Nurses, 76; Fever Nurses, 166. Total, 1,777.

Applications for approval for Registration on July 22nd were: General Part of the Register, by Examination, 1, by Reciprocity, 12; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by Reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by Examination, 16, by Reciprocity, 1. Total, 31.

It was agreed that 23 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their Retention Fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

#### EDUCATION AND EXAMINATION.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, it was agreed:—

That the Isolation Hospital, Aiken Street, Warrington, City Isolation Hospital, Worcester, and the Isolation Hospital, Exeter, be provisionally approved as complete training schools for Fever Nurses for a period of one year.

That the Bushey Heath Cottage Hospital, in affiliation with Watford Peace Memorial Hospital, be provisionally approved for a period of one year as a training school

which, in combination with another public hospital, gives complete training under Section 1 (1) (b) of the Council's Scheme of Training.

That the scheme of affiliation between the Liverpool Open-Air Hospital for Children, Leasowe, and the Sheffield Royal Infirmary, be approved.

That the provisional approval of the Waterloo and District General Hospital in affiliation with Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, and the Hospital of St. John and St. Elizabeth, London, be extended for a further year from April 24th, 1932.

### CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

The following letter, dated December 28th, 1931, from the College of Nursing was considered:—

The College of Nursing,  
Henrietta Street,  
Cavendish Square, London, W.1.  
December 28th, 1931.

The Chairman, The General Nursing Council.

*Suitable Candidates for the Nursing Profession.*

DEAR MADAM,—The College of Nursing has had under consideration for some time the desirability of procuring a more suitable educated type of candidate for the nursing profession.

The matter has been the subject of discussion at conferences of the profession, and with heads of the teaching profession. Headmistresses invariably state that the chief difficulty encountered when advising suitable candidates to take up Nursing is the interval which occurs between the age at which the majority of girls leave school, 17 to 18 years, and the age at which they may enter the nurse training school. Furthermore, at present no credit is given for any subjects which may be taken at school by a senior pupil during the intervening period in preparation for entry into the Nursing Profession, although in other professions preliminary examinations can be taken from school—for example, the first part of the M.B. of the Medical Profession.

At a recent meeting of the Education Committee of the College, at which distinguished representatives of the Teaching Profession were present, the particular aspect was again discussed. The following recommendation, put forward to the Council of the College, was adopted:—

"That schools for girls, approved for the purpose by the General Nursing Council, should include in their curriculum certain subjects of the Preliminary State Examination which can suitably be taken before entering hospital, and that these approved schools should be allowed to conduct the examination set by the General Nursing Council."

It is suggested that the Preliminary State Examination be divided into Part 1 and Part 2; Part 1 to cover the theoretical subjects taken at school, and Part 2 the professional subjects taken after the candidate had entered the training school. Such a scheme would not interfere with the present arrangement for candidates who prefer to wait until they enter hospital in order to take both parts of the examination.

It is considered by those who have knowledge and experience in advising girls as to their future careers, that such an arrangement as is suggested would bring about the desired result. Many suitable and educated girls, who are now lost to the Nursing Profession, would not be diverted into other channels with no set purpose, but would be glad to stay at school a little longer, if by so doing they could prepare themselves for entry into the profession of their choice. Other professional advantages are:—

(1) The pressure on the hospital would be lessened if at least some of the pupil probationers, having already satisfied the examiners on certain subjects, would not be required to attend all the preliminary classes of instruction in the Nursing School, which so many hospitals find difficulty to fit into their time table.

(2) The ground work which occupies so much of the time of the Sister Tutor would be already covered and the Tutor would have more time to devote to actual nursing subjects.

The Council of the College of Nursing, therefore, brings before the General Nursing Council, for its consideration, the question

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