

as to whether such a scheme as set out above could be approved, under the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

I remain, yours faithfully,  
M. S. RUNDLE, *Secretary*.

After some discussion, the following reply to the College of Nursing was approved:—

The Secretary, College of Nursing.

DEAR MADAM,—In reply to your letter, dated December 28th, 1931, forwarding a recommendation adopted by the Council of the College of Nursing as follows:—

"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,"

I am instructed to say that the General Nursing Council have no authority to approve Schools for Girls as part of the conditions for admission to the Register, nor can they allow any other body or any persons not appointed by them to conduct their examinations.

There is, of course, no objection to the inclusion in the school curriculum of some of the subjects necessary for the Preliminary Examination, and a student nurse who had taken a course in such subjects should more easily assimilate the further course during training and should have no difficulty in passing that part of the Preliminary Examination, but the value of lectures on anatomy, physiology and hygiene taken in conjunction with their nursing practice and experience and directly related thereto is infinitely greater than if it is regarded merely from an academic point of view.

My Council believe it would be of greater benefit both to the Nurse individually and to the Profession as a whole if the time spent at school between the years of 16 and 18 were directed to widening the general education rather than to definite "specialising."

The difficulty regarding the interval of time which elapses between the age of 16 at which some girls are obliged to leave school, and 18 at which they can begin training, is mainly an economic one, and, as such, does not directly concern my Council. Indirectly, it is concerned in the way education may be continued during such period so as to help a student after she begins her hospital training.

I am to say that the question of the general education of the candidates is under consideration by the Education and Examination Committee of the Council and that these and other points you have brought forward will receive careful consideration.

The suggestion that the Preliminary Examination might be divided into two parts has been considered, but the Council is of opinion that this would not be in the interest of the candidates nor of the profession. The Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Council is not an "Entrance" Examination, it is "Preliminary" to the Final Examinations and is regarded as the "one portal" to the Nursing Profession as a whole; its integrity and independence are matters of much importance to more than one branch of the profession.

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

#### A TEST EXAMINATION.

The following recommendation was considered:—

"That after June 1st, 1936, no candidate be admitted to the Preliminary Examination of the Council who does not possess the General School Certificate or its equivalent, unless such candidate has passed a test examination in general education which will be set up by the General Nursing Council as an 'Entrance Examination,' such test examination to be passed before entering hospital.

"That the test examination take the form of a written examination with questions on general knowledge, and should include a simple arithmetic test, and an essay with choice of subjects.

"That if the recommendations are approved, a Board in due course be appointed to conduct the examination."

Mr. Blackman did not consider this rule should be laid down in view of the present shortage of nurses.

The Chairman then drew attention to certain types of

girls who never took advantage of their school training, and found in the Examinations they could not write a paper or express themselves; it was, therefore, waste of time on the part of the teachers to prepare them for the Nursing Profession. She did not consider the recommendation would seriously limit the choice of candidates for Hospital training.

Miss Villiers then said that on visiting Hospitals she was struck by the shortage of fairly well educated candidates; plenty apply for training, but not enough of the right type. Miss Bushby also agreed that it would be very hard work to teach this class of girl.

The recommendation was therefore approved.

#### LETTER FROM THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.

The following letter was then considered:—

Royal Free Hospital,

London, W.C.1.

March 17th, 1932.

DEAR MADAM,—At a meeting of the weekly Board of this Hospital, held on 15th inst., it was resolved that:—

"The Board of this Hospital desire most strongly to support the recommendation of the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing to the effect that questions in the Final State Examination for all parts of the Register should be confined to nursing treatment, and should not involve systematic medicine, surgery, gynaecology or psychiatry."

I am desired to ask that your Council may consider this resolution and communicate to my Board any conclusions at which your Council may arrive.

Believe me, yours truly,

(Signed) REGINALD R. GARRATT, *Secretary*.

The Secretary, General Nursing Council.

The following letter, in reply, was approved:—

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter, dated March 17th, 1932, I am instructed to reply that the suggestion of the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing to which you refer would not be desirable in the interests of Nursing Education, and therefore it cannot be entertained by my Council.

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

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee it was agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Health.

#### DISCIPLINARY AND PENAL CASES.

The Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee reported that they had entered into correspondence with certain Registered Nurses whose names have been used in advertisements of Trade Products and their attention called to the following ruling of the Council:—

"That the Council hereby declares that it is derogatory to the Profession of Nursing and disadvantageous to the public that a Registered Nurse should recommend trade products by advertisements in the public press signed by her name."

As a result apologies have been received from these Nurses, who have withdrawn their names from the advertisements.

#### MENTAL NURSING.

On the recommendation of the Mental Nursing Committee it was agreed that the Great Barr Park Colony, near Birmingham, be provisionally approved, for a period of one year, as a complete training school for Nurses for Mental Defectives.

Applications have been received from two Nurses trained at Hospitals in Scotland, approved by the General Nursing Council for Scotland, now resident in England, who seek permission to sit for the Examinations held by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

It was therefore agreed that the Bangour Mental Hospital, West Lothian, and the Dundee Mental Hospital be temporarily approved as complete training schools for Mental Nurses, for the purpose of these applications.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)