

## GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

The General Nursing Council for Scotland, was held at 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, 28th April, 1933.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., Chairman of the Council, occupied the Chair, and 10 Members of the Council were present.

In the absence of Col. Mackintosh, the Convener of Education and Examination Committee, the Report of that Committee was submitted by Dr. Buist and was approved.

The following Examiners were appointed to conduct the Final Examination in Mental Nursing:—Dr. Neil T. Kerr, Hartwood District Asylum, Lanarkshire; Dr. D. MacRae, Glengall Mental Hospital, Ayr; Miss Maccallum, Dykebar Mental Hospital, Paisley; Miss Jeffrey, Kirklands Mental Hospital, Bothwell; Dr. C. J. Shaw, Royal Asylum, Montrose; Miss MacGrigor, Stirling District Mental Hospital, Larbert; Dr. W. T. Mackenzie, Westgreen Mental Hospital, Dundee; Miss Hatton, Aberdeen District Mental Hospital, Kingseat, Newmachar.

Dr. Noah Morris, Glasgow, was appointed an Examiner at the Preliminary Examination in place of another Examiner who was unable to act, and in view of the large number of candidates entering for the May Examination, Miss Selina Macdonald, Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, was appointed an additional Examiner in Theory and Practice of Nursing, Part I, at the Preliminary Examination.

## NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT (1919) AMENDMENT.

As we previously reported, Mr. J. Batey, Labour M.P. for Spennymoor, brought into the House of Commons the above Bill on April 3rd last. Its aim is to amend the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, with respect to the registration of existing nurses. The Bill is supported by Mr. Hartland, Mr. David Davies, Mr. Logan, Mr. Tinker and Mr. Daggar.

The draft Bill is as follows:—

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### TIME LIMIT FOR REGISTRATION OF EXISTING NURSES TO BE EXTENDED.

1. Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section three of the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, any person possessing the qualifications prescribed in the said paragraph shall be entitled, within a period of one year from the passing of this Act, to make an existing nurse's application to be admitted to the register of nurses established under the said Act, and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales shall take any such application into consideration as though it had been made within the time specified in the said paragraph.

### SHORT TITLE AND CITATION.

2. This Act may be cited as the Nurses Registration Act, 1919 (Amendment) Act, and the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, and this Act may be cited together as the Nurses Registration Acts, 1919 to 1933.

The paragraph alluded to—(c) of subsection (2) of section three of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919—provides for the registration of then existing nurses after one year's training and two years' work without examination, for a two-years' term of grace, and which ceased in 1922, since which time all applicants for registration have been compelled to fulfil three years' hospital training and submit themselves for examination under statutory rules by the General Nursing Council. It will readily be appreciated that the Batey Bill would have most disastrous results and would degrade the standard of nursing education and the status of nurses.

For these reasons means have been taken to block the Batey Bill when put down for Second Reading, as was the

case on April 12th and 28th and May 4th. The Bill was not reached on any of those days.

Registered Nurses must view this Bill seriously and take steps through their Members of Parliament to oppose it by every means in their power. It took thirty years to attain State Registration—with wonderful uplifting professional results—"Eternal vigilance" must now be our policy in the preservation of rights so hardly won.

## AN ENCLOSED ASSOCIATION OF L.C.C. NURSES.

The following letter has been addressed by the Matron-in-Chief of the Nursing Department of the London County Council, "on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health" to the Matrons and others in the L.C.C. Nursing Service:—

"Public Health Department.

"Dear Miss —,

An important conference will be held on Thursday, April 20th, at 2.30 p.m., in a room on the Principal Floor at the County Hall. *Your attendance at this Meeting is particularly requested.*"

This Order was duly obeyed and although it is known that the large majority of those present are not in favour of "an enclosed Association" within the L.C.C., over which apparently the Matrons are to exercise influence, only three had the temerity to vote against the programme placed before them.

In this connection the following communication has been sent by the National Association of Local Government Officers, to the Clerk of the L.C.C.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.—LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL BRANCH.

COPY FOR INFORMATION.

24, Abingdon Street,  
Westminster, S.W.1.  
24th April, 1933.

The Clerk of the Council,  
The County Hall, S.E.1.

SIR,

The attention of the Association has been drawn to the fact that an organisation for Nursing Staffs is being formed under the auspices of the L.C.C. Staff Association, and that a meeting in connection therewith is to be held at the County Hall tomorrow, Tuesday, 25th instant, at which representatives of the various grades of staff in each hospital have been invited to attend.

I have to inform you that this Association takes the strongest exception to the methods which are being adopted without the approval of the Council, but with the connivance of senior officers, in creating the organisation referred to. This protest is based upon the well-established fact that every officer should enjoy entire freedom of choice as to whether he or she should or should not join a service organisation, whereas the action taken in this instance is most definitely of a coercive nature.

The Association has every reason for saying that the proposals put before the Matrons have placed such officers in a most difficult position, and this, in turn, will have similar effects upon their staffs.

I have to request, therefore, that you will give instructions which will have the effect of removing any semblance of semi-official interference with individual rights in this matter, and that such facilities as may be accorded to the newly created organisation for the holding of meetings and the dissemination of information within the hospitals and institutions under your Council may be equally extended to the whole of the other organisations representing the staff.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,  
(Sgd.) THOS. M. KERSHAW,  
Divisional Secretary.

We refer our readers to an admirable letter from a Municipal Nurse which appears in this issue on page 146.

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