

to Lord Dawson of Penn, the Minister of Health and the Under Secretary of State, Home Office. A copy of the Resolution was sent to you on 28th April.

Yours faithfully,

G. E. DAVIES,
Registrar.

THE REGISTER OF NURSES, 1934.

We acknowledge with thanks the Register of Nurses for 1934 received from the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, which contains the names and qualifications of 70,469 registered nurses, 58,379 in the General Part, and 12,090 in the Supplementary Part for Male Nurses, Mental Nurses, Nurses for Mental Defectives, Sick Children's Nurses and Fever Nurses, which is published as a separate volume. In spite of this, the Register becomes thicker and thicker in succeeding years as more qualified nurses gain admission to the Nursing Profession. The type is excellent and clearly printed, and the book in its distinctive red and gold cover is a handsome volume and an indispensable work of reference which should find a place on the bookshelves of all institutions concerned with the care of the sick.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

Note of Proceedings at Meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland, held at 18, Melville Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, May 25th, 1934.

Twelve members of the Council were present. In the absence of the Chairman, Col. D. J. Mackintosh, C.B., M.V.O. (the Vice-Chairman), was called to the chair.

The Report of the Education and Examination Committee was submitted and approved. In accordance with the recommendations of that Committee it was agreed to grant temporary recognition to the Northern General Hospital and the Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh, in affiliation with the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. Various detailed recommendations of the Committee in regard to the arrangements for the Council's Examinations in May and June, 1934, were also approved.

The Registrar reported that in terms of Section III (5) of the Nurses' Registration (Scotland) Act, 1919, the proposal to make a rule providing for the splitting of the Preliminary Examination had been advertised in the *Edinburgh Gazette* and in the daily newspapers laid down by the Council and that the necessary period of 30 days had elapsed from the date of such advertisement.

After discussion, the Council decided to pass the rule in the terms of the draft previously adjusted.

THE NEW RULE.

The new Rule 22 (D) provides that the prescribed Preliminary Examination shall be divided into two parts. The first part shall consist of Elementary Anatomy and Physiology and Hygiene. The first part may be taken after or before but not more than two years before the candidate commences her approved training in a hospital, provided that she has attained the age of 17, in an educational institution approved by the Council for the purpose.

It remains to be seen what the effect of this new Rule will be, and how much of the theoretical instruction received by girls of 17 will be retained when they attempt to apply it in practice.

And has the General Nursing Council for Scotland authority to approve "educational institutions"? The General Nursing Council for England and Wales have decided that they have no authority to approve schools for girls.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND HOSPITAL DIETS.

Strong protests against alleged "appalling conditions" under which the staffs of the London County Council hospitals and institutions are supplied with food, were made at a meeting of officers of the institutions at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.

Six months ago, the Public Health Department of the L.C.C. applied a new scale of food allowances for resident officers of hospitals, including nurses.

The cost of the scale, it was shown, was 9s. a head. It is stated that there has been a gradual diminution of the quality and quantity of the food.

Reports in the Press on this question have aroused indignation on the part of nursing staffs, who, however, have not, so far as we know, expressed their opinion in print. We therefore made a few enquiries—and fail to find any cause for complaint—in so far as quantity is concerned.

The following letter from a nursing official in an L.C.C. Hospital is of interest:

"I must say we are very indignant with the publicity on the food question. If puddings have occasionally appeared to be deficient in sugar, the cook has been responsible for either not mixing his material properly or not adding. Eggs we have plenty of; but I must add they are *never* British, always some foreign stamp. They certainly are hard, but that also is due to the cooking.

"Margarine is not used here; plenty of butter is given, milk is in plenty, and very creamy. Our night nurses are given breakfast at 7.30 p.m., a midnight hot meal in the messroom: soup, cold meat, etc. A good dinner at 8 a.m.

"I am enclosing a slip from the *Daily Mail*. We are all most indignant about it, and especially because the said nurse is an assistant, I believe, not even a probationer, and one has to realise these untrained people were in clover in the Guardians' reign, and do object to losing all their little extras, which did not reach the nursing staff in the hospitals. Anyhow, there is nothing to grumble about in this hospital. The cooking could be better, but men do not like petticoat government, and the kitchens are staffed with men, and they are very difficult. They, however, have the difficulties of cramped space, an old building, and lack of labour-saving devices, which are appearing, but lack of space limits them.

"The allowance of tea and sugar is small, but we find it adequate, because there are always a number of the staff off duty and not at meals."

It would appear that the one deplorable statement in this letter is that, in this land of rich and wholesome agricultural produce, our L.C.C. nurses are deprived of fresh English eggs—selling as they do at rubbish prices—and that only foreign eggs are available. Surely this is inexcusable, and the sooner the Minister for Agriculture looks into this matter the better for farmers and nurses.

NO KNOWLEDGE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

It will be remembered that when a few months ago the new Socialist L.C.C. was elected, and appointed its Standing Committees, it failed to place a Registered Nurse on the Hospitals and Medical Services Committee, although it controls the lives and conditions of thousands of Nurses.

Upon enquiry, the excuse has been made "that Nurses have no knowledge of public business." In the aggregate, perhaps not, but, like all professions, it counts amongst its members persons well equipped to present the interests of hospitals, patients and nurses, and from a far more intimate and experienced point of view than the average layman.

We would remind the Chairman of the Committee that nursing has always produced women of keen public spirit. Who drafted the first Nurses' Registration Bill, in support

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)