

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The one hundred and fifty-second 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 December 15th. The Chairman, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Correspondence.

The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. Hewitt Pitt, acknowledging the information forwarded to him that he has been appointed Solicitor to the Council, in the place of his father.

The Chairman read the following letter from the Association of Head Mistresses:—

Association of Head Mistresses,
December 8th, 1933.

The Secretary,
General Nursing Council.

DEAR MADAM,—I am extremely sorry to find that the letter which I sent to you before the last meeting of the General Nursing Council was open to some misconstruction, and that it has actually been misapprehended. The passage in the former letter, to which I refer, is in paragraph two and runs:—"We put forward as a better plan the opening of the Examination to all who desire to take it, assuming that the standard of papers set would eliminate those whose preparation was inadequate."

The desire of the Executive was that in the event of the Preliminary State Examination being divided, the standard of the First Part, both as regards written and oral examination, should be such as to exclude candidates inadequately prepared.

I need hardly say that we have always taken it for granted that the entire conduct of the Examination would always be in the hands of the General Nursing Council.

I hope you will allow this slight elaboration of my former letter to be put before the next meeting of your Council.

Yours faithfully,

M. DOROTHY BROCK,
President.

The Chairman then read the following letter from the Minister of Health on the Superannuation of Members of the administrative and clerical staff:—

Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.
December 14th, 1933.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of October 3rd (EMM/CB) on the subject of arrangements for the superannuation of members of the administrative and clerical staff of the General Nursing Council, and to say that he approves the proposals of the Council for the adoption of the Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses and Hospital Officers as set out in your letter, on the understanding that any proposal to give any individual case more favourable treatment than the Scheme provides will be submitted for his specific approval.

With regard to the proposal of the Council to grant superannuation allowances to the Registrar and the Accountant, on their retirement from the services of the Council, at the rates of £350 a year and £225 a year respectively, I am to say that while the Minister concurs in the view of the Council that the cases of these two officers are deserving of special consideration, he regrets that he does not feel justified in approving the payment to them of pensions at rates so greatly in excess of those which would have been applicable if they had been entitled to pensions either on the Civil Service scale or under the contributory scheme which the Council are now proposing to adopt. After full consideration, he has decided to approve the grant of superannuation allowances of £300 to Miss Riddell and £200 to Miss Smith, and in fixing these amounts he has had due regard to the ability and zeal which Miss Riddell has displayed in discharging the special responsibilities which have fallen upon her as the

Council's first Registrar and to the excellent service which Miss Smith has rendered during her tenure of the post of Accountant.

I am, Madam,
Your obedient Servant
H. A. DE MONTMORENCY.

The Chairman,
General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and £25 for Insurance Stamps and £10 for Petty Cash allowed.

Registration.

On the recommendation of the Registration Committee, it was reported that the numbers of successful candidates at the October Examinations who had been approved for Registration by the Registration Committee on November 24th, were as follows:—

General Register, 1,633; Supplementary Part of the Register for Male Nurses, 5; Mental Nurses, 56; Nurses for Mental Defectives, 2; Sick Children's Nurses, 89; Fever Nurses, 189.

Applications for approval for Registration on December 15th, 1933, were:—General Register, by Reciprocity, 8; Supplementary Register for Fever Nurses, by Examination, 6, by Reciprocity, 2. Total 16.

It was agreed that 22 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 suggested procedure outlined by the Ministry of Health, in regard to the approval of Public Assistance Hospitals, be adopted.

The Chairman explained that a method of co-operation had been adopted, whereby the Public Assistance Hospitals could be approved by the Ministry of Health and the General Nursing Council as Training Schools for Nurses.

General Purposes.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, it was agreed that Miss Ella F. Nock, S.R.N., trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, and at present Registration Officer, be promoted to the post of Assistant Registrar, at the commencing salary of £450; that Miss Dorothy Phillips, S.R.N., trained at King's College Hospital, and at present Principal Clerk in the Registration Department, be promoted to the post of Registration Officer, at the commencing salary of £350; and that Miss Elizabeth M. North, S.R.N., trained at the General Hospital, Birmingham, be appointed Principal Clerk in the Registration Department.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, January 26th, 1934.

The Council then went *in camera* for the consideration of a Penal Case.

RETIREMENT OF MISS M. S. RIDDELL, R.R.C.

Miss M. S. Riddell, R.R.C., retires this month from the office of Registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, after upwards of 14 years' service. She will be succeeded in this responsible position by Miss G. E. Davies, as already reported.

Report of Debate on Part I of the Preliminary Examination.

This important Report can now be obtained in leaflet form, price 2d. (post free), from the Manager, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

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