

Royal British Nurses' Association.

Incorporated by



Royal Charter.

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

MEMORANDUM

OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY COUNTY COUNCILS ASSOCIATION AND ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

At the Meeting of the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, held at 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W., on April 26th, the following Memorandum was adopted, and it was agreed to send it to the Minister of Health, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the London County Council, the County Councils Association, and the Association of Municipal Corporations:—

The Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association have had under consideration the Recommendations of the Joint Committee, appointed by the Association of Municipal Corporations and the County Councils Association, to investigate the best method for the recruitment and training of nurses to be employed in the Public Assistance, Public Health, Mental Treatment and Education services. They desire to express their views on various recommendations of the Joint Committee which they regard as fundamentally opposed to the principles upon which this and other societies (united in the Central Committee for the State Registration of Trained Nurses) promoted legislation for Registration of Nurses by the State, principles which the Council still regard as vital to the efficient functioning of the Registration Acts.

(a) The Council of the Association are strongly opposed to the teaching of anatomy, physiology, hygiene and kindred subjects being divorced from the hospital curricula, as covered in the Preliminary Schools of the Hospitals and subsequent education given in the hospitals themselves. It is to be recognised that the teaching given on these subjects in an ordinary school and that given in the preliminary school of a hospital must of necessity vary in value as, in the latter, the subjects are taught in the sense of being applied and closely related to nursing treatment. The Council hold that the Nursing Schools alone should be responsible for nursing education and that to withdraw, what is undoubtedly an important branch of such education, from the authority and responsibility of the hospital schools, would deprive both the hospitals and the nursing profession of educational status and prerogatives upon which they rightly set a very high value.

(b) The Council are in agreement with the view that there should be greater co-operation between the general and mental hospitals in the matter of facilities for taking general training, but they strongly disapprove of any suggestion that the General Nursing Council and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association should confer and agree upon a common syllabus, unless it be upon the understanding that this syllabus shall lead up to examination by the General Nursing Council alone. If the recommendation, relative to this point in the Report, implies the estab-

lishment of separate examinations by the General Nursing Council and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association (on a common syllabus and equal footing) as the standards which shall entitle a nurse to be recognised as qualified to be entrusted with the care of patients suffering from mental diseases, and for admission to the State Register of Nurses, the Council are definitely opposed to such proposal; they likewise deprecate any conference between the General Nursing Council and the Royal Medico-Psychological Association which may have in view the establishment of separate and recognised examinations by these two bodies, even if prepared for on a common syllabus. Those who founded and promoted the movement for the establishment of the Nurses' Registration Acts have, from the beginning, stood firmly by the principle of a one portal system of entry to the State Register, and they consider that proposals incorporated in the Report of the Joint Committee are calculated to destroy such system.

(c) The Council hold that it would be an entirely retrograde step to establish a special nursing service, composed of nurses possessed (it is to be presumed) of inferior qualifications, for the care of the chronically sick. To adopt the suggestion that the General Nursing Council should co-operate in establishing a special form of training and diploma for such nurses would serve to nullify the first and main object for which the Registration Acts were established (*i.e.*, the provision of fully qualified nurses for the sick, whatever the type of disease from which they may suffer). Efficient nursing is as necessary for those suffering from chronic and often progressive ailments as it is for the more acute cases. Admittedly urgent emergencies more often arise in relation to the latter, but on the other hand the highest nursing skill is demanded for the mitigation of prolonged suffering and the avoidance of unnecessary complications in those who suffer from chronic diseases.

This Association welcomes the suggestion of the Joint Committee in relation to the grading of nurses and the nomenclature connected therewith. They agree very strongly with the views of the Committee that certain titles indicating positions of responsibility, trust and authority in the hospitals should be reserved for those whose names appear upon the State Register.

FIXTURES.

On Wednesday, May 15th, Miss Macdonald will give a lecture on the Care of the Lepers in Mediaeval England.

On Wednesday, May 22nd, there will be a charabanc Ramble to Battle Abbey, Hastings and Rye. For full details write to the Secretary, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

DONATIONS TO THE CECILIA LIDDIATT MEMORIAL.

Miss J. E. M. Haldane £2; Miss A. Connor 10s.; Miss Schlipper (Holland) 5s.; Miss A. Schuller 5s.; Misses F. I. Hoddinott and I. M. Hutton 2s. 6d.; Miss Holford 2s. Mrs. Brownsey, Misses C. Birmingham, S. Claridge, M. Henretty, H. Hewson, H. L. Hill, F. Macfarlane, E. Mackay, M. Meany, E. Murphy, E. Walker, 1s.

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