

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, July 24th.

The press then withdrew and the Council considered a penal case *in camera*.

THE STATE EXAMINATIONS.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The results of the recent State Examinations are as under :—

Preliminary State Examination, May, 1936.

	Entered.	Absent.	Present.	Passed.	Failed.	Percentage of failures.
First entries	2,814	155	2,659	2,074	585	22.0%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	250	17	233	107	126	54.07%
" Part Exam.	228	10	209	105	104	49.7%
Total	3,292	191	3,101	2,286	815	

Final State Examination, May, 1936.

Register.	Entered.	Absent.	Present.	Passed.	Failed.	Percentage of failures.
General—						
First entries	1,733	56	1,727	1,346	381	22.0%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	200	4	196	103	93	47.4%
" Part Exam.	333	13	320	173	147	45.9%
Total	2,316	73	2,243	1,622	621	
Male—						
First entries	8	—	8	7	1	12.5%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	1	—	1	1	—	—
" Part Exam.	4	—	4	—	4	100%
Total	13	—	13	8	5	
Mental—						
First entries	105	2	103	82	21	20.4%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	4	—	4	1	3	75%
" Part Exam.	15	—	15	4	11	73.3%
Total	124	2	122	87	35	
Mental Defect—						
First entries	6	—	6	4	2	33.3%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Part Exam.	1	—	1	—	1	100%
Total	7	—	7	4	3	
Sick Children—						
First entries	108	11	97	88	9	9.3%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	4	—	4	1	3	75%
" Part Exam.	14	1	13	7	6	46.1%
Total	126	12	114	96	18	
Fever—						
First entries	294	9	285	204	81	28.4%
Re-entries—Whole Exam.	66	4	62	37	25	40.3%
" Part Exam.	55	7	48	37	11	22.9%
Total	415	20	395	278	117	

RED CROSS DAY COLLECTION.

The total sum collected on Red Cross Day (Florence Nightingale's birthday), on May 12th, in aid of the funds of the County of London branch of the British Red Cross Society, was £4,005 5s. 10d., and the expenses of the collection amounted to 4.4 per cent. The County of London branch proposes this year to establish a holiday camp at Northwood Park, near Winchester, for blind London children and children suffering from heart disease. This camp will be held in connection with the Children's Country Holiday Fund. Twelve dispensaries for hop-pickers will be established in September in the hop gardens of Kent.

Nearly 14,000 Detachment Members of the British Red Cross Society are now qualified in Air Raid precautions. This subject is now included in the regular training of all the Society's Voluntary Aid Detachments.

NOT A REGISTERED NURSE.

The Nurse Nancy Melina Hermitage Bicknell sent to prison for conspiring with Dr. Laura Winifred Sanders-Bliss (condemned to three years' penal servitude) to perform illegal operations, was *not* a Registered Nurse.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCOTTISH HEALTH SERVICES.

Just as we go to press we have received the Report of the Committee on Scottish Health Services, presented by the Secretary of State for Scotland to Parliament by Command of His Majesty. It is a most important and comprehensive document of over 400 pages.

The Committee was appointed by the Right Hon. Sir Godfrey Collins, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, on June 22nd, 1933.

"To review the existing health services of Scotland in the light of modern conditions and knowledge and to make recommendations on any changes in policy and organisation that may be considered necessary for the promotion of efficiency and economy."

The Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Minister of State was the Hon. Sir John C. Dove-Wilson, K.C., M.A., LL.B., who died in April, 1935. He was succeeded by Professor E. P. Cathcart, C.B.E., M.D., D.Sc.

The Committee in their introduction state that the remit is very comprehensive, that in effect it calls for a review of all that is done to safeguard and promote the health of the people of Scotland, and they confess they had some difficulty in knowing where to begin. They add, "Our initial task, we found, was to set the problem of national health against its modern background, to answer the question, what should be done 'in the light of modern conditions and knowledge' before attempting to review what is actually being done at present."

Points from the Report.

It is in the interest of the State to foster the voluntary hospital system, but it would be unwise to endeavour to induce the voluntary hospitals to extend their financial commitments much further than at present. The hospital services should be developed by co-operation of voluntary and statutory hospitals and the public authorities but, in the main, financial responsibility for the shortage should be placed on the local authorities. A definite obligation should be placed on the local authorities to supplement existing hospital facilities if required by the central department to do so.

Representatives of voluntary hospitals of Scotland have submitted that the voluntary hospitals should be recognised as an integral part of the national health services and as a corollary are prepared to accept a measure of supervision and guidance from the Department of Health for Scotland. We recommend that, as with statutory hospitals at present, all proposals for the provision or extension of hospitals by voluntary bodies should require the approval of the Department of Health.

Maternity.

An essential step towards raising the standard of practice of midwives is to raise their remuneration, and otherwise improve their condition and status.

Nursing and Allied Services.

Apart from home nursing of the sick poor which, in many areas, is provided by arrangement with voluntary nursing associations, very little home nursing is undertaken by local authorities. It is undertaken mainly at present by district nurses employed by voluntary associations, which have done admirable work throughout Scotland. The most important of these is the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, which employs from 900 to 1,000 district nurses in Scotland. The large majority of district nurses are State Registered Nurses who have passed through the special course of training of the Queen's Institute.

Definite national standards of qualifications for the work done by home nurses, health visitors, and related professions should be laid down and no person should be appointed for full-time employment on the relevant duties unless she holds the prescribed qualifications.

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