

Local Authorities have been agitating to have recognition given to a second grade of Nurse to care for the chronic sick. It is admitted that such second grade Nurses (as they proposed) would be trained in Institutions which do not afford sufficiently varied experience for teaching purposes and which cannot therefore be recognised as Training Schools, and further that these Nurses would be chiefly those whose education and intelligence were not of a standard which would enable them to pass the Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Council.

The reasons for refusing to consider such second grade Nurses on the part of the General Nursing Council have been as follows:—

1. That having been set up by Act of Parliament to lay down a basic standard of Training for Nurses for the Sick, the Council could not recognise anything below that basic standard. It should be remembered that in drawing up the Syllabus and in determining the standard of Examinations, due regard had to be paid to things as they were at the time of the passing of the Act, and the standard was, therefore, and still is, very moderate.

2. The second reason was that the Council have no power under the Act to set up a "Special" Register, which had been suggested.

3. In response to the plea that the Council has power to set up another *Supplementary* Register—the reply has been that:—

(1) The one portal examination for all parts of the Register is the Preliminary State Examination, which it was admitted this class would not be able to pass, and

(2) That the Nurses on the *Supplementary* Registers are not an inferior type of General Nurse, but are specially and fully trained in their several branches of work.

At an interview sought by the County Councils' Association and Association of Municipal Corporations, the Education Committee of the Council held out no hope of such recognition being given by the General Nursing Council, but the elected (Nurse) members of the Council felt that the question was one which concerned the profession as a whole and asked for permission to use this room for a meeting so that they might discuss the question with appointed representatives of the various National Associations of Nurses. Time has been allowed for discussion in the various Associations, and I hope you are all prepared to speak briefly and to give us the considered opinions of your Associations. It is not a meeting of the General Nursing Council, nor summoned by the Council. It is an informal meeting asking you to meet the nurse representatives of the Council."

Miss Musson then read the following Resolutions and extracts from letters which had been received:—

British College of Nurses—

"This meeting of members of the British College of Nurses, while warmly sympathising with the provision of the most efficient nursing care for the chronic sick, is of opinion that this desirable end cannot be attained by the institution of an inferior grade of State Registered Nurses. It therefore urges the Government to require such expenditure by Local Authorities as will ensure the provision of efficiently trained Registered Nurses for the poor, of the same standard of training as is defined as essential under the Nurses' Registration Act for nurses for the General Public."

Association of Hospital Matrons—

"That there should be no additional *Supplementary* Register apart from the existing Registers of the General Nursing Council."

Mental Hospital Matrons' Association—

"The nursing of the Chronic Sick by any other than Trained Nurses is to be deprecated."

Royal British Nurses' Association—

"The Committee are strongly opposed to the establishment, under any statutory or local authority, of a special grade of nurses for the chronic sick."

Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union—

"I am directed to inform you that we are strenuously opposed to any proposal to institute a special and inferior grade of nurses for attendance upon the chronic sick."

Representatives were then invited to speak by the Chairman and expressed the views of their Associations, which were of an exceedingly interesting and informative character.

As the report of the Meeting only reached us when we were going to press we regret we have not space available for a full report of the speeches, but shall use them in our next issue, as this question is one of first importance.

Suffice it to say that at the end of the discussion, Miss M. S. Cochrane proposed the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mrs. Berens-Dowdeswell, and carried unanimously by all the delegates:—

"That no Supplementary Part of the Register should be set up for Nurses for the Chronic Sick."

Miss Musson said Members of Council would feel much helped by that very definite resolution. She then asked whether the meeting was of opinion that the ideal to be aimed at was that the Chronic Sick in Institutions should be cared for by fully trained Registered Nurses. This also was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

The unanimity of the instructed delegates of the leading Nurses' Organisations, as expressed at this Meeting, is extremely satisfactory, and we all owe Miss Musson a vote of thanks for giving us the opportunity of placing it on record.

"UNITY OF THOUGHT, SYMPATHY AND PURPOSE."

HADASSAH SCHOOL OF NURSING.

Jerusalem.

December 1, 1936.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, S.R.N., President,

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

DEAR MADAM,

In the midst of our grief at the murder of the two young nurses in Jaffa last August, it came as a relief to us to realise that we had your sympathy behind, and that we did not stand alone. Your letter of September 13th, 1936, with its enclosed copies of letters from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and from yourself to him, cheered us considerably, and we want to thank you for the interest you have shown in our small group. We very much hope that in the future we may be able to benefit both spiritually and professionally from your experience. We are trying to organise ourselves on the lines laid down by the International Council of Nurses, but as yet have not entirely succeeded—there are difficulties peculiar to this country that we have yet to overcome.

When the Congress of the International Council of Nurses takes place in London next year, we very much hope to have some representative of our organisation attend it.

Again we want to express our appreciation for your sympathy, and I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,

SHULAMITH L. CANTOR, Principal,
Henrietta Szold-Hadassah School of Nursing
for the Jewish Nurses' Association in Palestine.

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