

convenient and so arranged as to enable the ever-increasing work of the Council to be carried on as expeditiously as possible. The relation of one department to another has been carefully studied, and in the matter of modern equipment and furniture considerable thought has been given to the comfort and convenience of the staff. Each floor has its own staff cloakroom with a locker for each member of the staff, and a rest room and small mess room have been provided. We cannot, unfortunately, control the noise in the street outside, but all care has been taken to minimise as far as possible the noise inside, so that the clerks in one room are not disturbed by others in the next room or on the floor above.

During the ten years 1926 to 1936 the numbers entering for the State Examinations have more than doubled, the total number of nurses now on the Register being 84,464. This has entailed an increase in the number of centres at which examinations are held and also in the number of examiners. At the last examination there were altogether 150 centres all over England and Wales. The more careful teaching now given in the majority of the Nursing Schools has resulted in improved results.

Reciprocal agreements have now been entered into with most of those parts of His Majesty's Dominions overseas where registration of nurses is in force, and we are pleased to welcome here to-day representatives of some of the other Statutory Bodies—namely, the South African Medical Council; The Nurses' Registration Board of South Australia; The Nurses' Board of Victoria; and The Bombay Nurses', Midwives' and Health Visitors' Council.

I have the honour to ask Your Royal Highness graciously to declare this building open.

Her Royal Highness then declared the new Offices open in the following words:

I have much pleasure in declaring the new Offices of the General Nursing Council open.

The declaration was greeted with much applause, after which the Bishop of Southwark offered a prayer that the Divine blessing might rest upon the house, and pronounced a benediction.

With Her Royal Highness's permission certain representative guests were then presented, together with the architects, builders and clerk of the works.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to Her Royal Highness moved by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, H. L. Eason, Esq., C.B., C.M.G., M.B.

The Princess then made a prolonged tour of the various departments, staying for some time in the Registration Department, where the method of filing interested her greatly. It is reported to be the largest filing department in the world and every care is taken to prevent the possi-

bility of a mistake. In each department the Chief Officer was presented, and explained its work.

By agreement with the Howard de Walden Estate the stairs up to the second floor have margins of marble and the hall and staircases are panelled with marble. The following woods have been used for the panelled rooms on the first floor:—

Council room and ante-room, sycamore.

Small committee room, cherry.

Waiting room, Indian laurel.

Chairman's room, English walnut.

Registrar's office, Honduras cedar.

The furniture has evidently been selected with great care and taste, and the result is that, as well as being substantial, it is throughout the building pleasing and harmonious.

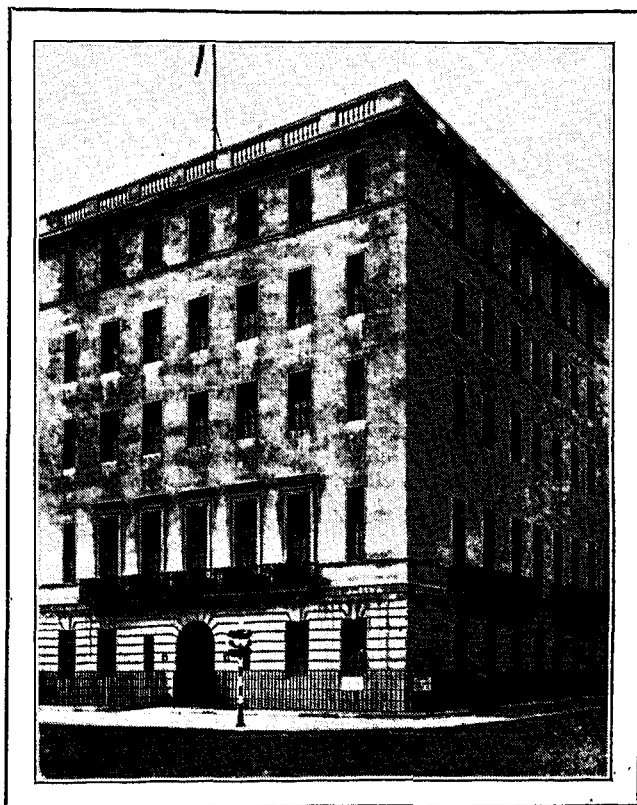
The beautiful mahogany doors on the first floor, and the various mantelpieces, as well as the iron balustrading on the first and second main stair landings, were all taken from the old buildings or the previous offices at No. 20.

Before leaving, the Princess took tea with the Council and invited guests, and was gracious and charming to the guests with whom she conversed, showing a keen interest in the work of the Council.

Before leaving, Her Royal Highness unveiled a marble mural tablet in the Central Hall bearing the inscription:

THIS BUILDING WAS OPENED BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ROYAL ON THE 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 1937.

The Registered Nurses of England and Wales have now a dignified and commodious Headquarters worthy of their great profession. In the evening the Chairman and Members of the Council held a Reception, when Registered Nurses had a much appreciated opportunity of seeing their new Offices.



THE NEW OFFICES.
General Nursing Council for England and Wales,
23, Portland Place, London, W.1.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

How to make the best use in the future of the fine building at the disposal of the Nursing Profession is now the question. Education and Registration, and the maintenance of a high standard of discipline and conduct are the main activities of the General Nursing Council—and to make use of the Nurses' Registration Act to the full, needs a sound progressive policy, to encourage the Nursing Schools to provide the most efficient theoretical and practical teaching is of first importance. The educational standard of Nurse Examiners for whom there is no special test of knowledge or capacity at present should be defined. The position of Sister Tutor might receive sympathetic consideration. Some special recognition is required in Nursing Schools for the invaluable instructor in clinical nursing in the wards—the Ward Sister—and so on.

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