

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on July 23rd.

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 Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal expressing appreciation at what was explained to her when she performed the opening ceremony, and wishing the General Nursing Council continued success.

The Chairman reported that the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council had sent an appreciation of message of sympathy sent from England upon the death of their Chairman.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £550 for stamps for Retention Fee notices, £250 for stamps for receipts, £300 for general postage stamps, £60 for Insurance stamps, and £25 for Petty Cash were allowed.

It was agreed that the sum of 30 guineas be paid to the Deputy Returning Officer for his services in connection with the forthcoming Election of Council.

Mr. W. H. Harper, Chairman of Finance Committee, reported that in accordance with authority granted by Council on May 28th, 1937, the following Stock has been sold:—

£2,500 Union of South Africa 3½% Stock, 1953-73.
£2,555 13s. 2d. London County Council 2½% Stock.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration on July 23rd were:—General Register, by reciprocity, 23; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by Examination, 11. Total 35.

On the recommendation of the Registration Committee, it was agreed that 32 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 provisional approval of the scheme of affiliation between the Abergele Sanatorium and the Withington Hospital and the Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, be extended for a further year;

The schemes of affiliation between Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Market Drayton, in affiliation with Birkenhead Municipal Hospital;

Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, Market Drayton, in affiliation with Clatterbridge (County) General Hospital;

Samaritan Free Hospital for Women, London, in affiliation with Guy's Hospital, London; be provisionally approved for a period of one year.

Application for Restoration of Name to the Register.

It was reported that an application had been received from Miss Elsie Featherstone for the restoration of her name to the Register.

Miss Featherstone's name was removed in June, 1934, and after the Council had considered the matter *in camera* it decided to postpone consideration of the application.

Next Meeting of the Council.

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

TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL.

We print below the Draft Charter for the Nursing Profession put forward by Mr. George Gibson on behalf of the Trades Union Congress General Council at its Annual Meeting on September 7th. It will no doubt receive consideration from members of the Nursing Profession.

DRAFT CHARTER FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION.

Medical science has made enormous progress during the 20th century, and greatly extended and improved health services are at the disposal of the people of this country. The development of science, together with an increase of leisure, has opened wider doors to all the professions, except nursing. In this sphere, more than any other, are still found unjustifiable and irritating restrictions upon personal liberty, together with an increased demand for technical knowledge without the necessary increase of leisure to acquire it. Every one of the many post-war Committees or Commissions that has enquired into the conditions of Nursing Services has urged a reduction in hours and an improvement in conditions. The result of the present position is an admitted scarcity of suitable new entrants to the profession, a scarcity which will, to the detriment of the public interest, increase during the next decade. Because of antiquated outlook and its restraint upon personal liberty, the nursing profession has lost much of its attractiveness as compared with other vocations open to women. It is with real concern for the sick, the ailing and afflicted, and in the interests of the nation and the nursing profession, that the Trades Union Congress puts forward this Charter. It is hoped that it will arouse nurses to organise for those improvements in salary and general conditions of service which alone can make the profession efficient and attractive.

1. *Hours of Duty.*—Ninety-six hour fortnight with complete elimination of the spread-over system.

2. *Overtime.*—Overtime to rank for special duty pay and "time in lieu" to be discouraged.

3. *Annual Leave.*—A minimum of one month with full pay; additional leave to be granted in special cases.

4. *Sick Pay.*—A minimum of thirteen weeks full and thirteen weeks half pay with extension at the discretion of the Committee. Periods of sickness or accident due to service to be paid at the full salary scale during absence from duty.

5. *Permanent Disability.*—Adequate compensation shall be paid in cases of permanent disability arising from cases of disease, sickness or illness, contracted as a result of the performance of duty.

6. *Nurses' Homes.*—Trained nurses should have freedom of choice regarding place of residence, but, where Nurses' Homes are established, full amenities for privacy to be provided. Indoor and outdoor facilities for study, recreation and comfort to be assured and adequate meals and mess-room accommodation provided.

7. *Superannuation.*—Statutory superannuation rights for all nurses and provision for retention of superannuation rights on transfer throughout the nursing service.

8. *Restrictions.*—Abolition of unnecessary restrictions.

9. *Whitley Council.*—To achieve a measure of standardisation within the service it is essential that National machinery, representative of all sections of the profession, shall be created throughout the country. It is therefore proposed that Whitley Council machinery shall be established on the following basis:—

(1) A National Council to act as a supervising and co-ordinating body to determine minimum rates of salary and maximum hours of duty, etc., and with power to form such regional machinery as desired; and

(2) Local Joint Consultative Committees for each hospital with power to consider such questions as hospital

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)