

It was also reported that the Council's Solicitor was instructed to take the necessary action under Section 8 of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, against a woman who has falsely represented herself to be a registered nurse. This action was agreed.

#### General Purposes.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, it was agreed that the following equipment be purchased for an additional Principal Clerk:—

Oak Pedestal Desk, £25; Swivel Chair, £7 7s.; Locker Wardrobe, £3 16s. 2d.

#### Disciplinary Case.

The case of Ellen Todd, S.R.N. 46746 (deferred from Council on October 22nd, 1937) was considered *in camera*.

Miss Todd was charged with stealing skeins of silk from a store, and was discharged under the Probation of Offenders Act.

The Council deferred judgment for a period of one year.

At the Meeting of the General Nursing Council, on October 28th, the following resolution was passed:—

"That the Council do direct the Registrar to remove from the Register of Nurses the name of Ellen Todd, S.R.N. 46746."

#### Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, November 25th.

### GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

The list of candidates who have passed the whole subjects of the Council's Final Examination has been issued. It is a long and very encouraging list from all parts of Scotland, and should encourage well educated girls to attain the professional status of Registered Nurses.

### LONDON MEDICAL EXHIBITION.

The London Medical Exhibition, which was held at the new Horticultural Hall in Greycoat Street, Westminster, from Monday 17th to Friday 21st October, is an interesting annual fixture, arranged with the object of bringing before the Medical Profession Drugs and Pharmaceutical Preparations and Instruments, more especially those which have been produced since last year.

Of the many exhibits we draw attention to the following as likely to interest nurses.

The Anti-menorrhagic Factor Granules, containing a non-saponifiable fraction of mammalian liver tissue suspended in a neutral base for the treatment of menorrhagia and metrorrhagia, shown by the Armour Laboratories, Armour House, St. Martin's le Grand, E.C.

Bengue & Co., Ltd., 24, Fitzroy Street, W., amongst other preparations were showing Agocholine Brand Granules, composed of purified peptone powder, anhydrous magnesium sulphate and essence of peppermint.

Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C., offered an attractive and comprehensive selection of their tabloid and pharmaceutical and serological products of uniformly high quality.

Thomas Christy & Co., Ltd., 4-12, Old Swan Lane, E.C., were showing amongst other exhibits Anti-bi-san, a powdered polyvalent serum for the prevention of influenza and common cold, of special interest at this season when these ills are likely to be prevalent.

Crookes Laboratories, British Colloids Ltd., Park Royal N.W., showed, by a chart, amongst many interesting exhibits, the value of the various elements in physiology; and a spectograph used in Vitamin A testing, showing how pure halibut-liver oil can be distinguished spectrographically from inferior mixtures.

### THE REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON NURSING.

The Scottish Departmental Committee on Nursing, appointed on November 24th, 1937, by Mr. Walter Elliot, then Secretary of State for Scotland, has now issued its Report to the Rt. Hon. John Colville, M.P., the present holder of that office, who, by command of His Majesty, has presented it to Parliament.

#### Members of the Committee.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Alness, P.C. (Chairman), W. L. Burgess, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.; The Lady Susan Gilmour, D.B.E.; Miss Mary R. Knight, M.A., M.B., Ch.B.; T. B. M. Lamb, Esq., O.B.E., M.A.; John Reid, Esq., M.D., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S.; Miss E. D. Smail, O.B.E., A.R.R.C.; Miss Christina Whyte, S.R.N.; John Young, Esq., M.B., C.M.; Mr. W. T. Mercer (Secretary).

#### Terms of Reference.

To inquire into the arrangements at present in operation in Scotland with regard to the recruitment and terms and conditions of service of persons engaged in nursing the sick, and to report whether any changes in these arrangements or other measures are expedient for the purpose of maintaining an adequate service both for institutional and for domiciliary nursing.

With the exception of the Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Lord Alness, who succeeded Sir A. C. Black, who was unable to accept the Chairmanship of the present Committee on account of the demands made on his time by his judicial work, the Committee now making its Report comprises eight members all of whom took part in the enquiry made in 1934 and 1935, into the training and registration of nurses in Scotland, and issued its Report in January, 1936 (Cmd. 5093).

The Committee having previously investigated the problems of training and registration, and reported upon them in 1936 concentrated upon (1) recruitment, and (2) terms and conditions of service, into which they made a very thorough investigation.

#### Possible Causes of Shortage.

The Committee consider that two sets of factors operate to cause a scarcity of nurses.

(1) The competition of other careers and occupations now open to women—a competition which is always more pronounced in times of industrial prosperity than in times of industrial depression, coupled with the changing distribution of the population.

(2) The unfavourable terms and conditions of service of nurses, the difficulty of filling the gap between the age of leaving school and the age of entering hospital, the ignorance among schoolgirls of nursing, parental opposition, the false impressions of nursing in the public mind and the effects of recent attacks in the press.

Added to these factors are the dislike many young women have of work connected with operations, their aversion to objectionable duties and strict discipline, the fear of infection, the dislike of attending to mental patients, and the amount of domestic work to be done. The examinations to be passed are also deterrents to many young women, as is the doubt which exists regarding their ultimate prospects in the profession. The Committee are of opinion that so far as these factors are concerned, there are certain steps which may be taken to improve the position, and they proceed to examine them in detail.

They say in conclusion: It is possible, that in our desire to discover and remove obstacles to recruitment, we may have dwelt, as it may seem to some, unduly upon criticisms made regarding conditions of service. It is just to record that there was on the other hand much evidence of happiness

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