

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

We are informed that a meeting of the Emergency Committee of the General Nursing Council was held on Friday, October 27th.

[The Emergency Committee is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Chairmen of Standing Committees.]

Important business was transacted, the following being of most interest to the Profession.

Arising out of minutes of the meeting of Council on July 28th:—

A letter was received from the Ministry of Health stating that the Minister had approved the amendments to the Rules of the Council concerning procedure in time of emergency, and that the amendments had been laid before both Houses of Parliament on September 20th.

Education and Examination.

The following scheme of affiliation was approved provisionally for a period of one year:—

Livingstone Hospital, Dartford, in affiliation with County Hospital, Dartford.

A scheme of affiliation was approved, for the period of the war between Jericho Hospital, Bury, and the County Hospital, Whiston, in place of the scheme between Jericho Hospital, Bury, and the Park Hospital, Flixton, the latter hospital having been taken over for military purposes.

Preliminary Examination—Part I.

An application from the authorities of the South Devon Technical College, Torquay, for approval of a whole-time two years' course of instruction for Part I of the Preliminary Examination was approved on the recommendation of the Board of Education.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

The case of Miss Ida Estelle Isabelle Michon, R.S.C.N.714, was heard, the charge being as follows:—

"Misconduct in that on July 31st, 1939, you were charged at Marylebone Police Court with stealing one £1 Bank of England Note from a room at 134, Fellows Road, N.W.3, on July 29th, 1939, when you were bound over in your own recognisance in the sum of £5 for 12 months."

After consideration of the evidence submitted, the Council directed the Registrar to remove the name of Ida Estelle Isabelle Michon from the Register of Nurses.

We have also received a report of the meeting of the Emergency Committee of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, held on November 24th, 1939, at 11 a.m., and have been requested to draw special attention to the important discussion regarding the release of V.A.D.s and Civil Nursing Auxiliaries for training as nurses.

This arrangement would appear to be an exceedingly desirable procedure, and there is no doubt numbers of suitable young women have applied to become V.A.D.s and Civil Nursing Auxiliaries, and if the pick of these workers were encouraged to enter for training as Registered Nurses, we feel sure that at the end of the war they would realise that they had adopted an exceedingly wise step. There is very little doubt that at the end of this war there will be a regular maelstrom of disorganisation in the nursing profession, and those women who have stepped out of the emergency ranks on to the definite ladder of professional aspiration will realise the wisdom of their decision.

Arising out of the Minutes.

1. Letter, dated November 18th, 1939, from the Ministry of Health, stating that no Address had been presented to His Majesty regarding the Amendments to the Rules of the Council concerning procedure in time of emergency.

2. Public shelter.—Reported that work has been started on the shelter, and that the Borough Council's architects have taken over the vaults in New Cavendish Street (in addition to those in Portland Place) in place of the Registry. Official confirmation has been received from the town clerk.

3. Reported.—Interview between chairman of Council and representatives of the British Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Association and the Central Emergency Committee, to consider position of V.A.D.s and Civil Nursing Auxiliaries desirous of taking up training for entrance to the examinations for admission to the Register of Nurses.

The chairman stated that Dame Beryl Oliver, D.B.E., R.R.C., Mrs. St. John Atkinson and Miss Watt, C.B.E., R.R.C., Principal Matron, Ministry of Health, had attended. All were agreed that there should be no reduction in the minimum period of training required by the General Nursing Council, but that V.A.D.s and Civil Nursing Auxiliaries should be released from their contracts if they desired to take up training as nurses. Dame Beryl Oliver drew attention to a clause now included in the form of Agreement for V.A.D. women employed in Military hospitals, which provided for release (on a month's notice) after six months' service on production of satisfactory evidence that the member intended training for admission to the General Part of the Register of Nurses. It was also understood that the Central Emergency Committee had made it as widely known as possible that all encouragement should be given to suitable Civil Nursing Auxiliaries to become probationers for full training for entry to the nursing profession.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

Reported that the solicitor to the Council had been asked to take action for the second time against a man named Barry Burnap, who was posing as a registered male nurse.

The case was heard at the Aldershot Court on November 16th. Burnap pleaded guilty and was fined £5 or one month's imprisonment in default. (The previous case came before the magistrates at Kingston in June of this year. On that occasion a fine of £2 was imposed and £10 10s. costs.)

Application for Restoration to the Register.

The case of Miss Gladys Norah Larsen.

The application was considered, and it was decided to restore Miss Larsen's name to the Register. Miss Larsen was present.

[The name of Miss Gladys Norah Larsen was removed from the Register by Order of Council on January 23rd, 1931.]

Disciplinary Case.

The case of Miss Theresa McConnell, R.F.N. 10064.

The Council's solicitor presented the facts of the case and read the following charge against Miss Theresa McConnell:—

"Misconduct in that you were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, on September 12th, 1939, of the infanticide of your newly born child, and that you were bound over in the sum of £5 for two years."

After considering the facts before them, the Emergency Committee directed the Registrar to remove from the Register of Nurses the name of Theresa McConnell.

Miss McConnell was not present and was not represented.

A SAD STORY.

Margaret Macrae, 24, described as a nurse, pleaded guilty to a number of thefts at Bow Street, and she was sentenced to 10 months' hard labour. Her name does not appear on the State Register, thanks be.

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