

First Part of the Preliminary State Examination by passing a Test Examination, and (2) were firmly opposed to the recommendation that Co-operations of Registered Nurses should be licensed, registered, and inspected by Public Authorities which are composed of unprofessional persons, and (3) were strongly opposed to the organisation of a Roll of Nurses, under the authority of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, of the semi-trained "Assistant Nurse" who, it was proposed, should be admitted to a Statutory Roll without examination.

The President pointed out that to have two grades of Nurses legalised under the same Body would mean the disintegration of the Nurses' Registration Act and the reversion to a lower standard of Nursing, and nothing could be more disastrous to the Profession.

It was proposed that a Resolution of emphatic protest be sent to the Minister of Health, the President of the Board of Education, members of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, and the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. This was carried unanimously.

This Resolution appears on page 74 in the Report of the General Nursing Council Meeting.

NURSING STANDARDS DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

The President reported that a Nursing Standards Defence Fund was being inaugurated with which to combat this grave injustice to the Profession, and proposed that a small Committee be formed to act in this connection, and subscriptions would be gratefully received.

Members proposed to act on the Committee were: Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss I. Macdonald; and it was agreed to leave it to the President to invite any others to act whom she considered advisable.

A RETROGRADE STEP.

The President reminded the Council that in its Report the Scottish Departmental Committee on Nursing expressed disapproval of a lower grade of nurses in the following terms: "We think that the setting up of a lower grade of nurses would be a retrograde step. Such a step might, we recognise, be welcomed by institutions, but we doubt whether it is desirable from the point of view of nurses. As we see it, nurses obtained, by the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919, recognition for which they had striven for twenty years. This Act marked the first step towards making nursing a homogeneous profession. We feel that the adoption of the suggestion to recognise assistant nurses might, even if the attempt were made to draw a distinction between them and nurses on the existing parts of the General Nursing Council Register, nullify many of the benefits obtained under the Act of 1919, would tend to lower the status of the profession, and would not be in the public interest. As it is, registered nurses complain of the competition of untrained or assistant nurses, and the formal recognition of assistant nurses might, we fear, have the effect of intensifying this competition.

"After careful consideration of all the circumstances, we do not recommend the setting up of a grade of assistant nurses."

PUBLIC MEETING OF PROTEST.

It was reported that the Royal British Nurses' Association will hold a Public Meeting of Protest in the Caxton Hall on March 21st, at 8 p.m.

LIST OF GIFTS.

- Miss M. Breay.—£1 for flowers.
- Anonymous.—8s.
- Miss Borwick.—2s. 6d. for Sympathy Fund.
- Miss M. Breay.—Silver Urn.
- Miss V. Smith.—Flowers.
- Miss Stainton.—Flowers.

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

It was unanimously agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on March 18th, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting then terminated.

After the Meeting, Mr. Stanley Wang, from the Methodist Mission Hospital, Hankow, was received and took tea with the Council.

The Members of the Council expressed admiration and approval of their new Board Room and other arrangements.

FIXTURES.

March 18th.—Monthly Meeting of the Council. 2.30 p.m.

March 30th.—Reception for Inspection of the New Headquarters, 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. 3.30 to 6 p.m. Tea. Fellows and Members heartily welcome.

OBITUARY.

MISS MYRA LOUISE TAYLOR.

It was with deep sorrow that we received the sad tidings of the death of Miss Myra L. Taylor, F.B.C.N., Nursing Superintendent, The General Hospital, St. John's, Newfoundland. Miss Taylor received her training at the hospital where she has served with such distinction as Nursing Superintendent. She was a warm supporter of the British College of Nurses, and how deeply her passing is mourned is expressed in the *Evening Telegram*, St. John's, Newfoundland, of January 19th, 1939:—

"At an early hour yesterday morning there passed peacefully to her eternal rest one whose name is known throughout the length and breadth of Newfoundland, Myra Louise Taylor, R.N., Superintendent of Nurses at the General Hospital.

"There were many 'listening in' yesterday when the news of her passing was told to whom it brought grateful remembrances of a slight figure walking through the wards late at night. To others came a recollection of acts of kindness and cheer which had comforted them when a loved one was a patient at the hospital, little acts entirely outside the requirements of her official duties, but which, busy as she always was, she found time to accomplish.

"Her passing was unexpected, although she had not been well for some months, and in October had received treatment in Boston. Since her return her progress was slow, and, though an operation on Thursday was apparently successful, she suffered a relapse, despite the devoted care and attention of her nursing staff.

"The late Miss Taylor was born at Bay Roberts, the daughter of the late Richard Henegar Taylor and Eliza Manston Taylor. She became a graduate nurse at the General Hospital, St. John's, in November, 1910, and immediately was appointed head nurse of the surgical wards. In October, 1911, she resigned that position in order to continue her training. She took a midwifery course at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, England, obtaining the diploma of that school, and in 1912 the diploma of the Central Midwives Board of England and Wales. A course in Swedish massage was completed the following June, and the diploma of a certified masseuse obtained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. In August, 1913, Miss Taylor returned to Newfoundland. In April, 1916, she accepted the position of Superintendent of Nurses at the General Hospital, St. John's, which position she held at the time of her death.

"In recent years, Miss Taylor organised a Newfoundland Branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses. In October, 1923, she was admitted to the Register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and was elected a Fellow of the British College of Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)