

they did not report on their departments direct to their hospital boards, but their reports were submitted through their medical superintendents, who further had the right to discuss them. If, therefore, they upheld the right of the nurses to be trained in accordance with the curriculum of the General Nursing Council, while their medical superintendents insisted on training them for the examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, the difficulty of their position was apparent.

Members of the Medico-Psychological Association who prepared pupils under their direction for the examination organised by their own Association, without explaining to them that it gave them no legal status, and that they would be ineligible when trained for many of the higher posts, unless they were State Registered Mental Nurses, adopted an indefensible and unethical position, and showed, moreover, disregard of the best interests of the pupils who relied on their advice.

The session concluded with cordial votes of thanks to the Chairman and speakers.

THE NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL DINNER.

Once again members of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, welcomed friends and guests to their annual dinner, held at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, W.1, on February 11th.

The President, Miss H. McLoughlin, M.B.C.N., Matron, Infectious Diseases Hospital, East Ham, was in the Chair, and among the guests there were Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Chairman, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, Dr. J. Landon, Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Tottenham, Dr. G. Harnett, Medical Superintendent Barnet Isolation Hospital, and Mrs. Harnett, Dr. Duff Palmer, Medical Superintendent, Infectious Diseases Hospital, East Ham, and Mrs. Duff Palmer, Dr. Donald MacIntyre, Medical Superintendent, Plaistow Hospital, E.

The absence of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who was unable to be present, was much regretted.

The Toast to the King was proposed by the Chairman, who then called upon Miss J. T. Ruddy, M.B.C.N., Matron, High Grove Sanatorium, East Grinstead, to give the Toast to the Guests.

Miss Ruddy, in welcoming the guests, expressed a special pleasure that the Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, Dame Ellen Musson, was their honoured guest, and she hoped that it would be more fully realised how very determined the Members of the Association were to stand for the progressive independence of the Nursing Profession.

In response to the Toast to the Guests, Dame Ellen Musson expressed herself honoured in being invited to be present, and in alluding to the very vital nursing problems of to-day which concerned the Matrons, said she would like to see closer co-operation between the Infectious and the General Hospitals.

After an excellent dinner the party passed through to the Criterion Theatre, where the perfect acting of "Tony Draws a Horse" kept the audience perpetually amused, a real tonic for tired and busy people.

Never were arrangements better than at the Third Annual Dinner of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, for which the members are more than grateful to the presiding genius of their President, Miss H. McLoughlin and for the arduous work bestowed on behalf of the Association by the Hon. Secretary, Miss B. M. West, Matron, Barnet Isolation Hospital.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on February 24th. Dame Ellen M. Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

The Chairman reminded those present that the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Nursing Services had been issued, and it was agreed that the Education and Examination Committee should meet on Wednesday, March 1st, to consider it, and also that the whole Council should consider it after the next meeting of the Council.

Correspondence.

From the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Chairman reported the receipt of the following Resolution sent from the Royal British Nurses' Association, which was read to the Council by the Registrar:—

RESOLUTION.

That the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association do express its strong disapproval of any suggestion for the extension of the powers and functions of the Nurses' Registration Act to give the recognition and protection of the State to any but the fully qualified nurses as now recognised under the Act. Such recognition (for nurses of inferior qualification), whether by placing them on a Register or on a Roll, would nullify in very large measure the value of the State Register, would lead to confusion and misunderstanding in the minds of the public, and would set the seal of the State's approval on inefficiency. Furthermore, such procedure would be tantamount to a breach of contract with the nurses now on the Register, because they have had their names placed thereon in the full assurance of the State's protection for their professional qualification.

The following correspondence ensued:—

General Nursing Council,
23, Portland Place, London, W.1.
February 23rd, 1939.

DEAR MADAM,—The Chairman of the General Nursing Council has asked me to reply to your letter enclosing copy of a resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Chairman desires to point out that the General Nursing Council has not received any request to set up a Roll of Nurses of inferior qualifications, nor have they received notice that it is the intention of the Minister of Health to extend the powers of the Nurses' Registration Act in the way suggested in the resolution.

The Chairman considers, therefore, that under the circumstances, the resolution at present would more appropriately be forwarded to the Minister of Health or the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. DAVIES, Registrar.

The Secretary,
Royal British Nurses' Association,
194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

Royal British Nurses' Association,
194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.
February 24th, 1939.

The Registrar,
The General Nursing Council,
23, Portland Place, W.1.

DEAR MADAM,—I thank you for your letter of 23rd instant.

My Committee have already given instructions that a copy of the Resolution, forwarded to your Chairman, be

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