

## 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.1, on July 26th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

### Business Arising out of the Minutes.

The following correspondence, between the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Ministry of Health, was reported in connection with the suggestion that the Ministry of Health send a representative to report on any possible economies that may be effected in the work of the Council.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.  
June 28th, 1940.

Your reference IIIA, 93261 /5 /7.

SIR,

I am directed to refer to your letter of the 14th May, 1940, in regard to the investigation proposed by the Minister of Health. I am to state that there is no expenditure which has not been carefully scrutinised by the Finance Committee with a view to effecting economy wherever possible, and to point out that the letter of the 12th April, 1940, stated, not that there was no economy which could be effected, but that the Committee were satisfied that there was no economy which could be effected which would counterbalance the heavy deficit incurred on account of the low fees for re-entry to the examinations.

Though the Council are legally advised that there is no provision in the Nurses' Registration Act which gives the Minister power to investigate the administration of the Council in the matter of their expenditure, they are always prepared to receive and to consider any suggestions which might help to reduce expenditure. I am directed to say that if the Minister will be so good as to furnish the Council with the name of the officer to whom reference is made in your letter, an invitation will be sent to him to visit the offices and to carry out his enquiry at a time mutually convenient to himself and to the staff of the Council.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. E. DAVIES, Registrar.

The Secretary, Ministry of Health,  
Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.  
R.A.

July 10th, 1940.

IIIA. 93261 /9 /3B.

MADAM,

I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to your letter of the 28th June from which he is glad to note your assurance that the Council are always prepared to receive and to consider any suggestions which might help to reduce expenditure.

It is, of course, within the knowledge of the Council that the Nurses' Registration Act gives the Minister wide powers and responsibilities in regard to the General Nursing Council. Not only must he approve the rules which govern the procedure of the Council, but sections 4 and 5 of the Act, which cover the financial side of the Council's work, make all such matters as salaries, fees, etc., subject to his approval. His duties in regard to audit are, of course, well known to you.

Unfortunately it is difficult at the present time for the officer referred to in the official letter of the 14th May to propose a date for his visit. He will do so as soon as circumstances permit.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

H. A. DE MONTMORENCY.

Miss G. E. Davies, S.R.N.,  
General Nursing Council for England and Wales,  
23, Portland Place, London, W.1.

### Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,350 for weekly salaries, £200 for postage stamps, £700 for postages for retention fee notices and receipts, £70 for insurance stamps, and £15 for petty cash were allowed.

### Registration.

On the recommendation of the Registration Committee it was agreed that certificates, marked "duplicate," of their registration be issued to four nurses, without payment of fee, whose certificates were lost during the evacuation from France and the Channel Islands.

Applications for approval for registration were: General Register by reciprocity, 5; Supplementary Part of the Register for Sick Children's Nurses by reciprocity, 2; for Fever Nurses, by Examination, 9, by reciprocity, 2. Total 18.

It was agreed that 73 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 Mexborough Montagu Hospital be provisionally approved as a Complete Training School for Nurses for the period of one year;

The provisional approval of Sutton and Cheam Hospital, and Wembley Hospital as Complete Training Schools for Nurses be extended for a further period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The provisional approval of the schemes of affiliation between Hawkmoor Sanatorium, Bovey Tracey, and the Royal Infirmary, Truro; between Abergele Sanatorium and Withington Hospital, Manchester, and Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester; between Birmingham Hospital for Women and the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton; and between the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital and the Middlesex Hospital, be extended for a further period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The provisional approval of Lancaster and District Isolation Hospital as a Complete Training School for Fever Nurses be extended for a further period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less.

It was agreed that the one-year whole time Course of Instruction at Sherborne School for Girls, Sherborne, be approved for the purposes of Part I. of the Preliminary Examination; and that the full-time Health Visitors' Course of two years' duration at the Battersea Polytechnic be approved for the purposes of Part I. of the Preliminary Examination.

### Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, September 27th.

### REMARKS.

It would appear that the newly appointed Minister of Health, the Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, M.P., whose knowledge of nursing organisation must necessarily be of a somewhat limited nature, is wise in postponing the investigation into the expenditure of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales until he has studied the matter, which requires expert knowledge of a far-reaching nature.

The annual expenditure of the Council, £63,000, is, in our opinion, unnecessarily high, and as we Registered Nurses are financially responsible for providing this huge income, in these hard times it will have to be reduced.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)