

It was agreed that application cannot be considered until two years have elapsed since the date of the removal of the name from the Register.

#### Next Meeting of the Council.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on October 25th.

### THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

A Meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was held at 5, Darnaway Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, September 20th, 1940.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., occupied the chair.

Apologies for absence were intimated from Dr. Chalmers, Miss Clark, Dr. Millar, Miss Milnes, Miss Robinson, Miss Stewart, and Miss Tulloch.

#### Education, Examination and Registration.

Approval was given to a Pre-Nursing Course instituted at the Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science to enable students to enter for the First Part of the Preliminary Examination.

Reported that 15 Nurses who had passed the Final Examination had now attained the age of 21 and had been registered since last meeting.

Reported 15 applications for re-inclusion in the Register after failure to pay the retention fee.

Stoneyetts Hospital, Chryston, was approved as a Hospital for the purpose of training of Nurses for the Mental Part of the Register.

#### Rule 22 (D).

Reported that the Department of Health had approved of the Amendment of Rule 22 (D).

#### Finance.

The Report of the Finance Committee was submitted and approved and the Accounts were passed for payment.

#### Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council should be held on Friday, October 25th, 1940.

### VISITS TO AIR RAID VICTIMS.

The Red Cross and St. John War Organisation has already announced that it is giving assistance throughout the country to relatives to visit dangerously ill and wounded Service men in hospital. The scheme has now been extended to include relatives of men in the Merchant Navy ill in hospital as a result of enemy action, and relatives of air-raid casualties, if they have been requested to make the visit by the hospital or civilian authorities. Free travelling warrants and reduced fares for relatives of air-raid casualties can be obtained through the Public Assistance authorities.

Except in urgent cases, relatives are strongly recommended not to make visits to hospitals at a distance from their homes, and in particular are advised not to go to the London area or to pass through London unless absolutely necessary.

Applications for assistance under this scheme should be made either to the local Red Cross and St. John Joint County Committee or to the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families' Association, or to the nearest Citizens' Advice Bureau.

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

We have always been a keen supporter of voluntary hospitals, and the more we realise the spirit such as that of the London County Council, which permeates centralisation, the more we object to it. The care of the sick needs heart, the progress of science independence of thought and action, and such blessings appear impossible to attain through rate-supported committees in competition with voluntary institutions. Great efforts are now being made to amalgamate the two systems. As well try to mix oil and water. It is well that on St. Luke's Day an appeal in support of voluntary hospitals has been projected. *The Times* states the case with sympathy.

"The work of the hospitals in these difficult days has suffered no relaxation. Though some of them have been struck by bombs, and though all of them have been subjected to the highest possible degree of stress and strain, work has proceeded without interruption and without loss of efficiency. There is an idea in the minds of some people that this admirable accomplishment has been made possible in the financial sphere by the support of the Government, and that the hospitals to-day have no anxieties about the replenishment of their funds. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The voluntary hospitals remain voluntary; their work depends, as always, upon the generosity of the public, and can be maintained only if that generosity continues to express itself. For this reason a widespread appeal to the nation is about to be made by, among others, Lord Luke, chairman of the Revenue Committee of the King Edward's Hospital Fund, and Lord Baldwin. They will insist that, as the second winter of war approaches, the hospitals must be afforded the means of dealing with new and insistent demands and thus be relieved of the heavy burden of anxiety which lack of resources inevitably imposes. Last year the black-out added in tragic fashion to the number of casualties in the streets of all our cities; in the days which lie ahead there are new dangers to be encountered of a still more formidable character. It is intolerable that preparations to meet this emergency should be hampered in any degree through lack of resources.

"In fact the strain upon the hospitals is to-day a reflection of the strain upon the nation as a whole. All have become potential hospital patients and the safety of all depends directly upon the services at disposal. In asking for help, therefore, the hospitals are presenting a claim the weight and justice of which no one will dispute. Who does not expect, if he becomes a victim, to receive freely all that these great storehouses of knowledge and skill are able to bestow? This is a debt not to humanity only but also to the men and women whose devotion has become an essential basis of victory. It must also be borne in mind that, whereas the Emergency Medical Service is concerned wholly with casualties arising from war, the voluntary hospitals are combining war services with their ordinary functions. Disease has not ceased to claim victims; there is still as great need as ever for the work of surgeons and physicians and obstetricians. Out-patient departments must be maintained as in happier times. Any breakdown on this 'home front' would react immediately upon the 'war front,' and so materially diminish the confidence of the nation. It is true, indeed, to say that the whole system of emergency treatment, as evolved by the Ministry of Health before the outbreak of war, is based upon the work of the voluntary hospitals and can only be carried on in association with that work. The British people created their own hospital system and have sustained it, in face of every difficulty and every danger. That they will respond once more—on this coming St. Luke's Day—to what is perhaps the most urgent appeal for help ever addressed to them is not to be doubted."

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