

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 April 26th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £600 for weekly salaries, £35 for Insurance stamps, £15 for petty cash, and £16,000 for examiners' claims and accommodation for examinations, were allowed.

It was reported that copies are available of all documents which would be necessary for the purposes of a claim in the event of war damage, and that steps have been taken to ensure that these duplicate documents are in safe keeping, not on the premises of the Council.

It has been decided to charge 6d. per copy for Lists of Approved Hospitals.

Estimated expenditure to June 30th, 1940, was considered, and it was agreed that authority be given to the Chairman of Council, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the Registrar to sign the Memorandum of Deposit on behalf of the Council charging to the Midland Bank, Ltd., £6,600 Government of the Commonwealth of Australia 3½ per cent. Registered Stock, 1946-1949, and £5,000 Port of London Authority 3½ per cent. Registered Stock, 1965-1975, to be held nominally as cover in return for an advance of £8,500 to meet temporary need.

Registration.

Applications for Registration were: General Register, by reciprocity, 10; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 7, by reciprocity, 7. Total, 27.

It was agreed that 107 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 Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital, Chesterfield, be fully approved as a complete Training School for Male Nurses; that the provisional approval of the scheme of affiliation between the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London, and King George Hospital, Ilford, be extended for a further period of one year; that the provisional approval of the Borough Sanatorium, Southend-on-Sea, as a complete Training School for Fever Nurses be extended for a further period of one year; and that the one-year whole-time Course of Instruction at Crumlin Mining and Technical College, Monmouthshire, be provisionally approved for the purposes of Part I. of the Preliminary Examination.

Disciplinary Case.

Mr. Hewitt Pitt, Solicitor to the Council, placed the following case before them:—

Miss Edith Olive Berry, R.S.C.N.889, was found guilty in January of stealing goods from the premises of Messrs. D. H. Evans to the value of £1 17s. 10d. and from the premises of Messrs. Harrods to the value of £34 13s. Six other cases were taken against her.

She was sentenced to imprisonment, but upon being medically examined and found to be in a very bad state of health the sentence was quashed, and she was bound over in the sum of £5 for two years.

Miss Berry appeared before the Council accompanied by her solicitor and medical man, and pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing.

It was explained that not one of the stolen articles had

been used by her; they were carefully packed in boxes in her room, and that they had all been returned in perfect condition to the premises from where they were stolen.

The Council considered the case *in camera*, and on account of the state of Miss Berry's health at the time of the thefts, decided to postpone judgment for 12 months on the condition that she placed herself under medical care, and that a report be sent to the Council at the end of six months and again at the end of 12 months.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for May 24th.

The following letters have been received from the Registrar:—

DEAR MADAM,

Disciplinary Case.

I am directed to inform you that at the meeting of Council to-day the following resolution was passed:—

"That the Council do direct the Registrar to remove from the Register of Nurses the name of Margarethe Charlotte Grosset, S.R.N.73976."

The charge against Miss Grosset was as follows:—

At the Westminster Police Court, on March 6th, 1940, Margarethe Charlotte Grosset was convicted on a charge of obtaining by false pretences clothing, perfume, etc., value £59 6s. 1½d., and was sentenced to six, six and six months' imprisonment (concurrent).

Yours faithfully,

G. E. DAVIES, Registrar.

DEAR MADAM,

Notices of Prosecution.

It was reported at the meeting of Council on Friday last that—

(1) Lily Cornick had pleaded guilty of posing as a State Registered Nurse, and was fined £2 and £1 1s. costs at Bournemouth on April 9th.

(2) Liscette Arnett Ellis. The case was heard at Greenwich police court on April 10th, when she was fined £10 and £1 1s. costs or 14 days' imprisonment, with 28 days in which to pay.

(3) Olga Desiree Peacock was charged at Exeter City police court on April 8th with larceny and false pretences. She obtained food and accommodation at various addresses on the assertion that she was a State Registered Nurse. She was bound over on probation for two years.

Yours faithfully

G. E. DAVIES, Registrar.

These three women are not Registered Nurses, and it is well they should be punished for posing as such.

But as the General Nursing Council is constantly reinstating thieves on the Register, failing to protect the Nursing Profession and the public from association with them, it is not surprising that undesirable women take this legal title in vain.

THE GUILD OF NURSES AND THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

The following correspondence has taken place between the Chairman of the Guild of Nurses and the Education and Examination Committee of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales:—

38, Argyle Square,
London, W.C.1.

April 9th, 1940.

DEAR MADAM,

The members of the Guild of Nurses ask the General Nursing Council to give immediate consideration to requiring compulsory minimum time, for every nurse in training, to be spent in practical experience of each type of service offered by the respective Hospitals.

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