

THE MENTAL HOSPITAL MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association was held at 194, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Saturday, July 5th. There was a good attendance of its members and several matters of importance to the profession were discussed. The Hon. Treasurer's Report was presented to the meeting and adopted, and appreciation was expressed of the satisfactory financial condition of affairs in these difficult times.

Mrs. Lediard gave a report of meetings she had attended of the Committee, convened by the Royal College of Nursing to consider the position and status of the Registered Nurse. The members present at the General Meeting discussed in particular certain propositions in connection with the Assistant Nurse, and on this the following Resolution was moved by Miss V. G. Smith, seconded by Miss Gambier and carried unanimously:

That under no circumstances can this Association agree to the suggested establishment of a Roll of partially qualified women under the Nurses' Registration Act.

Any such step would not be in conformity with the interests of the sick, would lead to confusion in the minds of the public as to what constitutes a fully qualified State Registered Nurse and, further, would undermine the professional and economic security of those nurses who have met the demands of the State, both in training and examination, by recognising under the Act, established to protect their professional status, large numbers of inadequately trained women."

The members present also discussed difficulties connected with the present shortage of nurses in Mental Hospitals, and it was decided to forward a request to the Minister of Health asking that consideration be given to methods for minimising existing difficulties in this direction.

The social aspects of the gathering were not neglected and, during tea, members enjoyed an atmosphere of friendly conversations and the renewal of friendships more or less interrupted during this time of war.

HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTORY SCHEMES.

Steps to increase and co-ordinate hospital contributory schemes are to be taken by a new representative Committee set up by the King Edward's Hospital Fund.

Contributory schemes have grown rapidly during recent years until they now provide an important part of the income of voluntary hospitals. Sir Kenneth Wigram, who is also connected with the Nuffield Hospital Trust, is the chairman of the new Contributory Schemes Committee, which includes representatives from the Voluntary Hospitals Committee, the Hospitals Saving Association, and the Hospital Saturday Fund.

The Committee will examine the different schemes in the Metropolitan area, making recommendations, and will also deal with the relationship of London hospitals to schemes in the provinces. The secretary is Mr. T. W. Place, for some years secretary of the British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association.

MOSQUITO AND MALARIA SURVEY.

In order to establish the relation between certain types of anophelene mosquitoes and the incidence of malaria in Trinidad, the Government have accepted an offer by the Rockefeller Foundation to carry out a mosquito and malaria survey, which is expected to last a year and to be of the greatest help in planning future anti-malarial measures.

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 June 27th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Death of First Chairman.

The death was reported of Sir Joseph Priestley, K.C., the first Chairman of the Council, which took place on June 9th. The Council, rising, paid tribute to his memory, and it was agreed that a letter of sympathy be sent to Lady Priestley and her daughter.

Honour for Mr. W. H. Harper.

Great pleasure was expressed at the award of the Order of the British Empire bestowed upon Mr. W. H. Harper, previous member of Council, in the King's Birthday Honours.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £900 for Weekly Salaries, £350 for Postage, £45 for Insurance Stamps, and £30 for Petty Cash were allowed.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were:— General Register, by reciprocity, 2; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 12. Total, 16.

It was agreed that 145 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

It was reported that Registers of Nurses for 1941 have been received from the General Nursing Council for Scotland, the General Nursing Council for Eire, and the Medical Council of Southern Rhodesia.

Education and Examination.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, it was reported that:—

The provisional approval of Thurrock Isolation Hospital, Grays, Essex, and of Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital, as complete Training Schools for Fever 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 County Infirmary, Louth, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, the Warren Road Hospital, Guildford, and the Redhill County Hospital, Surrey, 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 Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, and Withington Hospital, Manchester, between Erith, Crayford, Belvedere and Abbey Wood Hospital and Gravesend and North Kent Hospital; between Bretby Hall Orthopaedic Hospital, Burton-on-Trent, and Withington Hospital, Manchester, and the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary; and between Ransom Sanatorium, Rainworth, and Leicester City General Hospital and Withington Hospital, Manchester, be extended for a further period of two years, or for the duration of the War, whichever is the less;

The provisional approval of Smithdown Road Hospital, Liverpool, and of Leicester City General Hospital, as complete Training Schools for Male Nurses, be extended for a further period of two years, or for the duration of the War, whichever is the less;

The approval of the scheme of affiliation between the Maida Vale Hospital for Nervous Diseases, London, and

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