

not to be bamboozled with the specious arguments advanced by those institutional managers and their amenable Matrons who fail, owing to mismanagement, to secure responsible probationers, and who are moving heaven and earth to degrade the status of Registered Nurses by placing ill-educated, semi-trained women in competition with them on a legal register conducted by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, which is accredited by Parliament to govern the Nursing Profession, and the work of which the profession has already subsidised by upwards of *three-quarters of a million pounds*.

#### Noblesse Oblige.

We advise Lord Horder, as a Peer of the realm, to consider this matter. We feel sure he will then realise how justifiable is the righteous indignation of the Registered Nurses at the attempt to degrade the Nursing Profession in the body politic, and incidentally that we intend to fight this gross injustice with all the energy and tenacity of purpose inspired by conscientious conviction.

#### SPECIAL CONCESSIONS FOR UNIFORM.

Nurses are to receive special concessions for uniform and the Royal College of Nursing offered to undertake this work for the Board of Trade, which will make concessions to nurses outside hospital. To meet the cost of administration, the College is making an annual charge of 2s. 6d. for coupons, which has aroused much indignation amongst nurses who are not members of the College, and one naturally wants to know why the Board of Trade has permitted this charge.

All private nurses (not undertaking maternity work), industrial nurses and nurses working as school matrons in public and private schools, must obtain special coupons for their uniform through the Royal College of Nursing.

These continual attempts to control free nurses arouse much ill feeling.

#### CANADIAN NURSES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

The *Canadian Nurse* reports that National Defence Headquarters has announced that 300 Canadian nurses are sought to volunteer for duty in the South African military hospitals. It is planned that the first group of nurses will leave Canada for South Africa shortly. Under agreement between the Canadian and South African Governments, the nurses to be recruited in the Dominion through District Medical Officers will wear the uniform of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Service with South African badges.

The request for the 300 nurses came from the South African Government to meet the additional demands brought on by the war. To qualify for enlistment a nurse must be a British subject, physically fit, a graduate of a recognised school of nursing and registered in her provincial nursing association. Canadian nurses going to South Africa will sign on for one year's service with option of renewal. First-class passage from Canada to South Africa and return will be provided. The volunteers will receive the regular uniform allowance of \$150 paid to Nursing Sisters of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, but will be granted South African rank, pay and allowances. These details are available through the district medical officers.

Recruiting for the South African Military Nursing Service has already begun, and will be continued through district medical officers at Military District Headquarters across Canada. In Military District No. 2 (Toronto), Nursing Sister Helen Boehme, formerly a member of the nursing staff of the Christie St. Military Hospital, and Miss Mary Eleanor Ball, formerly of Montreal and now of Toronto, have already been appointed to the group of Canadian nurses who will serve in South African military hospitals, and other appointments will be made shortly by Colonel Hagerman, district medical officer.

### 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 November 28th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

The Chairman reported that sanction has been obtained for the postponement of the election of Council for the period of one year.

#### Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £640 for Weekly Salaries, £150 for Postage, £50 for Insurance Stamps, £20 for Petty Cash, and £1,200 for Examiners' Claims were allowed.

It was agreed that an estimate for £547 10s. 5d. for stationery be accepted.

#### Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Register, by reciprocity, 12; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 5, by reciprocity, 2. Total 22.

It was agreed that 199 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 a copy of the Roll of Nurses for 1941 has been received from the Hong Kong Nurses' Board.

#### Education and Examination.

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

The scheme of affiliation between the City General Hospital, Gloucester, and the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary and Eye Institution, Gloucester, be provisionally approved for the period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The City Isolation Hospital, Headington, Oxford, be provisionally approved as a Complete Training School for Fever Nurses for a period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The scheme of affiliation between Bishop's Stortford Hospital, Herts, and the Essex County Hospital, Colchester, be provisionally approved for a period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The approval of the scheme of combined training between Whinney House Sanatorium and Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital, be withdrawn; and that Sheriff Hill Isolation Hospital be provisionally approved as a Complete Training School for Fever Nurses for a period of two years, or for the duration of the War, whichever is the less.

On the recommendation of the Board of Education, the one year whole time Pre-Nursing Course at Wolsingham Grammar School, Durham County; at Folkestone Technical Institute, and at Southend-on-Sea High School for Girls be provisionally approved for the purposes of Part I. of the Preliminary Examination.

It was reported that 3,380 candidates had passed Part I. of the Preliminary Examination, and 3,384 candidates had passed Part II.; and that the following candidates had passed the Final Examination: General Nurses, 2,340; Male Nurses, 8; Mental Nurses, 41; Nurses for Mental Defectives, 1; Sick Children's Nurses, 151; and Fever Nurses, 274. Total, 2,815.

#### General Purposes.

It was agreed that Clerks under 18 years of age receive War Bonus of 3s. per week, and those between 18 and 21 years of age, 5s. per week.

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