

It was agreed that the Offices be closed for Christmas from Tuesday evening, December 23rd, to mid-day on Monday, December 29th.

Disciplinary Cases.

The case of Ethel Dora Hayes, S.R.N., 46,954, was next considered. She was fined £20 at Macclesfield for obtaining the post of Matron at the Macclesfield General Infirmary by false references.

Miss Hayes had written requesting the Council to remove her name from the Register of Nurses.

It was agreed that her name be removed.

An application from Miss Gertrude Irene Snape for the restoration of her name to the Register, removed in July, 1939, was considered; and it was agreed that her name be restored to the Register.

The Council then went *in camera* to consider cases of Registered Nurses reported by Police Authorities, and the case of Mary Elizabeth Thompson, S.R.N., 50,234.

Next Meeting of Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for December 19th.

A PARTHIAN SHOT.

"Cassandra" has always items of interest in the notes in the *Daily Mirror*. The following is indeed topical in reference to the demand of the British College of Nurses for standardisation of oral examinations by the G.N.C.

A PARTHIAN SHOT.

"I understand there is a serious shortage of trained nurses. A girl who is anxious to do her bit tackled the preliminary examination at a London hospital the other day. The general knowledge questions were interesting.

"What do you know about—

1. The sword of Damocles?
2. The Ides of March?
3. Per Ardua ad Astra?
4. The Greek Kalends?
5. Pons Asinorum?
6. A Parthian shot?

"I'm glad they included 'Pons Asinorum.' You can hear the braying of poor deluded donkeys on a veritable Forth Bridge of folly, while some poor creature bleeds quietly to death below the centre span."

MIRACLES OF BRAIN SURGERY.

Miracles of brain surgery are being reported from Moscow. The intense suffering in this appalling war has never been emphasised in the Press—it is too heart-rending, but we believe in facing the worst and standing up to it. The Special Correspondent of the *Daily Sketch* reports:—

"Miracles of brain surgery are being performed here on wounded soldiers.

"I have visited the Institute of Nerve and Brain Surgery under Prof. Grashchenkov, Vice-Commissar for Public Health, who operates on soldiers with splinters embedded in their brains. He has had only two deaths in 50 cases.

"Often after operations soldiers have to be taught to speak again. They learn like children with picture books.

"Nerves from people who have died have been successfully grafted into living people. The dead nerve acts as a bridge round which the fibres grow out and rejoin."

They [the English] bear hunger, cold, fatigue, and all the miseries of life without shrinking; danger only calls forth their fortitude; they even exult in calamity; but contempt is what they cannot bear.—*Goldsmith*, "*English Pride*."

NURSES' SALARIES COMMITTEE.

Of leaflets from the Ministry of Health there is an unending flow, so that we are well supplied with information on its activities, for which thanks.

The one subject in which apparently the whole profession is interested is the question of Salaries. So long ago as last January the County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association, having considered the matter, came to the conclusion that an increase all round was necessary, and sent to the Ministry of Health a schedule of salaries they considered advisable, and these appear reasonable. Six months later the Royal College of Nursing drafted a schedule which aroused adverse criticism owing to its excessive demands—especially the proposal that the Matrons of the large hospitals should receive a salary of £1,000 p.a. together with board, lodging, special service, other emoluments and pensions. Senior hospital appointments to be remunerated on the same generous scale.

In criticising these proposals it was pointed out that to qualify for these positions—Student Nurses paid no fees for their professional training and education, and, indeed, cost the Nursing Schools thousands of pounds annually, paid by the charitable public or the ratepayers—Student nurses being relieved of the more strenuous domestic duties in the wards by domestic workers.

The fact, however, remained that the supply of probationers was far short of the demand—and whether a few pounds additional salary will increase their number is a question. We doubt it. We shall see. A genuine sympathy with sick and suffering humanity is the real incentive which might, and should, inspire young women who aspire to be their nurses, and until parents inculcate in their daughters the value of duty instead of encouraging them to think this wonderful life is merely ephemeral, the scarcity will continue.

From time immemorial the care of the sick has been cherished by the saints.

NURSES' SALARIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Chairman.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Rushcliffe, C.B.E., Fedsden, Roydon, Ware.

British Hospitals' Association.

Sir Bernard Docker, K.B.E., British Hospitals' Association, 12, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

Miss M. M. Edwards, Nursing Recruitment Centre, 21, Cavendish Square, W.1.

Mr. S. Clayton Fryers, General Infirmary, Leeds.

Mr. G. G. Panter, Royal Northern Hospital, Holloway Road, London, N.7.

Mr. S. P. Richardson, J.P., 87, Iverna Court, Kensington, W.

Mr. J. P. Wetenhall, British Hospitals' Association, 12, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

County Councils' Association.

Sir Wynne Cemlyn-Jones, Trewen, Penmaenmawr, North Wales.

Mr. W. B. Cartwright, Heather Royd, Alwoodleygates, Leeds.

Mr. A. L. Hobhouse, Hadspen House, Castle Cary, Somerset.

Dr. W. A. Bullough, County Hall, Chelmsford.

Association of Municipal Corporations.

Ald. Sir George Martin, K.B.E., J.P., Adel Lodge, Adel, Leeds.

Ald. E. C. Parr, J.P., 99, Barton Road, Lancaster.

Mr. J. Lythgoe, City Treasurer, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)