

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 December 19th, 1941. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

A letter was reported from the Ministry agreeing to the proposed increase of salary for clerks 21 years of age.

Correspondence.

A letter was reported from the Solicitor notifying the Council that Mrs. Ellams has been sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment for posing as a State Registered Nurse in Colchester and London, and for stealing a badge. The case was heard at the Central Criminal Court.

A letter was reported from Dean Effie Taylor, President of the International Council of Nurses, expressing regret at the death of Miss M. S. Riddell, first Registrar to the General Nursing Council.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bill and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £640 for weekly salaries, £200 for postage, £50 for Insurance stamps, £10 for petty cash, and £5,000 for Examiners' claims and Hospital accommodation were allowed.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were:— General Register, by examination, 53; by reciprocity, 1; Supplementary Part of the Register for Male Nurses, by examination, 1; for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Mental Defective Nurses, by examination, 1; for Sick Children's Nurses, by examination, 6; by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 17; by reciprocity, 2. Total, 83.

It was agreed that 102 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 copies of the Amendments to the Register of Nurses and the Register of Midwives and Maternity Nurses have been received from the Nurses and Midwives' Registration Board of New Zealand.

Education and Examination.

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

The scheme of affiliation between the Birmingham Accident Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre and the General Hospital, Birmingham, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, the Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, and the Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, be approved for a period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The scheme of affiliation between the Hollymoor Emergency Hospital and Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, and the Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, be approved for a period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The Royal National Orthopædic Hospital, Stanmore, be provisionally approved as a training school for male nurses in affiliation with the Hackney Hospital, London, for a period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less;

The Cirencester Memorial Hospital, in affiliation with the Royal United Hospital, Bath, be provisionally approved as an affiliated training school for General 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 it was agreed that the one year whole-time Pre-Nursing Course at the Ilford County High School for Girls be provisionally approved for the purposes of Part I. of the Preliminary Examination.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, January 23rd, 1942.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING.

We note, as reported in the *Public Assistance Journal*, that the Royal College of Nursing is adopting the basic principles of the organisation of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and forming a new federation of affiliated societies of nurses on the special registers, and henceforth the new federation will meet regularly. Imitation is sincerest flattery.

The Secretary reported to the Council the notification in the House of Commons of widened terms of reference for the Government Salaries' Committee, the Minister of Health having announced his decision to include nurses in sanatoria and tuberculosis hospitals holding or studying for the certificate of the Tuberculosis Association. Dame Ellen Musson said that by so doing the Minister was helping to perpetuate an unsatisfactory state of affairs. Such nurses were fully catered for through one or other of the State examinations, and specialisation in the nursing of a single disease (such as tuberculosis) was not recognised by the law, but was covered in the State curriculum. Continued official recognition of such certificates only postponed the day when the ideal of a comprehensive general training could be established.

The Council decided to take up the matter directly with the Minister of Health, with a view to emphasising the true function and national importance of the Nurses' Registration Act, and to clarifying the position generally. At the same time the Council recognised the importance of making State registered nurses responsible for the negotiation of all nurses' salaries once their own basic scales have been established.

The Public Health Section reported that the British Medical Association had issued a report on industrial health in factories which included a section on the work of the industrial nurse. The Public Health Section had not been invited to co-operate in this report and the statements with regard to the work of the Royal College of Nursing were unsatisfactory.

From this report it is evident that the Council of the College is beginning to realise that the Registered Nurse and her rights and privileges cannot be ignored and her status undermined by the registration of the semi-trained nurse—the result of the avowed policy of the Royal College.

We are pleased to note that Dame Ellen Musson (Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales) took part in this discussion and condemned the recognition of specialists by the Ministry of Health. The General Nursing Council has kept silence too long; it is time it took steps to protect nurses registered under its authority, for which they have already paid the huge sum of £750,000.

SALARIES COMMITTEE FOR NURSES (SCOTLAND).

The Department of Health for Scotland announces that Lord Craigmyle has had to resign the Chairmanship of the Salaries Committee for Nurses (Scotland), on account of ill-health. The Secretary of State has appointed Professor T. M. Taylor, M.A., LL.B. (Aberdeen), as Chairman in succession.

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