

# THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED  
**THE NURSING RECORD**

EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, REGISTERED NURSE.

No. 2792. Vol. 90.

NOVEMBER, 1942.

Price Sevenpence.

## EDITORIAL.

### POWERS AND POLICY OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.

As we report on another page, the General Nursing Council at its Meeting on Friday, October 23rd last, went *in camera* for an hour to discuss a Memorandum from the Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown—which presumably referred to our professional affairs. In our last issue we expressed the opinion “that before any scheme is adopted which is a violation of contract with 100,000 Registered Nurses, they should be consulted.” We repeat that demand. Let history repeat itself.

On November 26th, 1936, owing to difficulty in procuring a sufficient supply of nurses to attend the chronic sick in hospitals under Public Assistance Authorities and separate wards for the chronic sick attached to the Municipal Hospitals, Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., I.L.D., Chairman of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, summoned a Conference of instructed representatives of the Registered Nurses' Organisations, when after free discussion they voted unanimously for a Resolution against the depreciation of the standards of nursing as prescribed by the General Nursing Council for inclusion on the Register.

Thanks to the professional vigilance of this Journal the business transacted at that Meeting was fully reported in the issues of December, 1936, and January, 1937, and as they are of the utmost importance at the present crisis we republish verbatim the official expression of opinion on its duty, the policy of the General Nursing Council at that date, and which we claim still stands and should stand.

### REPORT OF MEETING ON NURSING OF THE CHRONIC SICK.

#### CALLED BY MISS MUSSON.

By kind permission of the General Nursing Council the meeting was held at 20, Portland Place, London, W.1, at 2.30 p.m. on 26th November, 1936.

The following were present:—  
Miss Musson in the Chair.

#### ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL\*

\*Mr. Buckley, Miss Cockeram, Miss Cox-Davies, Miss Dey, Miss Gullan, Miss Innes, Miss Jones, Mr. Southwell, Miss Sparshott, Miss Villiers, \*Miss Willis.

(\*Mr. Buckley and Miss Willis also represented the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union.)

#### REPRESENTATIVES OF NURSES' ASSOCIATIONS.

##### *Association of Hospital Matrons—*

Miss Littleboy, Matron, London Hospital.  
Miss Thompson, Matron, St. John's Hospital, S.W.

*Association of Queen's Superintendents—*  
Miss J. P. Watt, Highgate (Inspector).  
Miss Ivett.

##### *British College of Nurses—*

Miss M. S. Cochrane, Matron, Charing Cross Hospital.  
Miss M. Breay, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1.

##### *College of Nursing—*

Miss D. S. Coode (President).  
Miss Wenden, Nurses' Co-operation, Guildford.

##### *County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association—*

Miss Alsop (late Matron, St. Mary Abbot's Hospital).  
Miss Solomon, Matron, Colindale Hospital, Hendon.

##### *Infectious Hospital Matrons' Association—*

Miss Mackie, Matron, Children's Hospital, Brentwood.  
Miss B. M. West, Southgate Hospital, Palmers Green.

##### *Matrons' Council of Great Britain—*

Mrs. Mackenzie, Matron, Putney General Hospital.  
Miss S. G. Reay, Matron, King Edward's Memorial Hospital, Hendon.

##### *Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union—*

\*Miss Willis.  
\*Mr. Buckley.

##### *Mental Hospital Matrons' Association—*

Miss F. J. Cumming, Matron, Springfield Hospital.  
Miss M. S. Seymour, Matron, City Mental Hospital, Leicester.

##### *National Council of Nurses of Great Britain—*

Miss Allbutt, Matron, Fulham Hospital.  
Miss Salton, Matron, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

##### *National Union of County Officers—*

Mrs. Iris Brook.  
Mr. Patrick McHugh.

##### *Royal British Nurses' Association—*

Mrs. Berens-Dowdeswell.  
Miss I. Macdonald.

Miss Musson welcomed the representatives, and made the following statement in explanation of her reason for calling the meeting:—

“I suppose it usually happens that when a definite status is conferred on any body or profession, persons without the requisite training endeavour to obtain recognition under those same auspices. This has certainly been the case from time to time with the General Nursing Council. For some time past, as you are aware, some Local Authorities have been agitating to have recognition given to a second grade of Nurse to care for the chronic sick. It is admitted that such second grade Nurses (as they proposed) would be trained in Institutions which do not afford sufficiently varied experience for teaching purposes and which cannot therefore be recognised as Training Schools, and further that these Nurses would be chiefly those whose education and intelligence were not of a standard which would enable them to pass the Preliminary Examination of the General Nursing Council.

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