

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

NOTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND, HELD AT 5, DARNAWAY STREET, EDINBURGH, ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1942.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., occupied the chair.

An apology for absence was intimated from Colonel D. J. Mackintosh.

Education, Examination and Registration.

Reported that the Association of Registered Nurses of the Province of Quebec had ratified the Reciprocal Registration Agreement.

October, 1942 Examinations.

Preliminary Examination—	Entered	Passed
Anatomy and Physiology ...	539	411
Hygiene and Dietetics ...	475	384
Nursing ...	484	473
Final Examination—		
General ...	335	302
Fever ...	87	84
Sick Children ...	37	36
Mental ...	16	13
Mental Defective ...	3	3

Uniform.

It was agreed that the shirt-blouse may be of white, grey or blue silk or cotton material.

Registration.

The names of 381 Nurses who had passed the Council's recent examinations and had attained the age of 21 were submitted and approved.

The names of 12 Nurses who had passed the Council's examinations and had now attained the age of 21 were submitted and approved.

Reported 16 applications for re-inclusion in the Register after failure to pay the Retention Fee.

Accounts.

The Report of the Finance Committee submitted and approved and the Accounts passed for payment.

The expenses incurred in connection with the October, 1942, examinations, amounting to £1,314 9s. 1d., were submitted and passed for payment.

Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of Council be held on Friday, December 18th, 1942.

SULPHAPYRIDINE.

17,500 LIVES SAVED BY NEW DRUG.

The Minister of Health, recently addressing Honorary Group Secretaries of the Hospital Saving Association in London, said:—

"During the war considerable advances have been made in our methods of preventive medicine, and I think the public as a whole are more healthily health-conscious than they used to be. They are anxious to do all they can to keep the nation fighting fit.

"Unfortunately, there is, of course, a very large amount of ill-health and disease, either not prevented or not yet preventable, and much of the responsibility for skilled care falls upon the hospitals of the country.

"Fortunately the science of treatment and cure marches apace with the technique of destruction. Take, for instance, that war-time disease, cerebro-spinal meningitis, known to the general public as spotted fever. In the 1915-1917 epidemic, two out of three cases were fatal.

In the years 1934-1937 the fatality rate was still 66 per cent. In 1939, by skilled use of the new drug, sulphapyridine, it was brought down to 33 per cent.; and at present four out of every five patients recover.

"It has been estimated by Dr. W. J. Martin, of the Medical Research Council, that this drug administered in hospitals to men and women suffering from spotted fever, saved 10,000 lives in the years 1939-1941. Probably 7,500 more lives were saved by the use of sulphapyridine in pneumonia cases. So, taking only two diseases, a single drug has saved more lives than the Nazi war machine was able to destroy in the Battle of Egypt."

THE NURSES' SALARIES COMMITTEE.

It is now a year since the Nurses' Salaries Committee was set up by the Minister of Health to consider the salaries and emoluments of Registered Nurses, with Lord Rushcliffe as Chairman; and the matter has received constant consideration by two Panels—one consisting of Nurses, the other of Employers—and on several points both Panels have agreed. Questions have been asked in the House of Commons concerning the matter, and on November 26th last, Commander Sir Archibald Southby, M.P., asked the Minister of Health "whether the Nurses' Salaries Committee has issued a report; and, if not, when he anticipated a report will be available?"

To which question, Miss Horsbrugh, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, referred him to a previous reply, in which the Chairman states that considerable work has been done and that he hopes to be able to report early next year. When issued, we shall all study it eagerly.

From the beginning, no doubt the Employers' Panel have realised that a very large sum of money will be necessary annually to meet the increase of nurses' salaries, especially if the thousands of semi-trained Assistant Nurses are included, as proposed, for which there is no Parliamentary mandate, and who are entirely outside the ranks of Registered Nurses. The Treasury, no doubt, will take time to consider a matter which will incur huge annual expenditure, when rates and taxes are impoverishing the whole community.

Having made such a fine bargain over the Nurses' Registration Acts, 1919, by which the Treasury does not incur the expenditure of one penny—the Registered Nurses defraying the entire cost of the administration of the Acts—we can imagine that this Department is in no hurry to expend thousands of pounds annually in the increase of nurses' salaries.

"LOVE FROM A STRANGER."

We congratulate Miss Gladys M. Hardy, Matron of the Battersea General Hospital, on the financial success of the Play "Love from a Stranger," which she recently produced at the Drill Hall, Clapham Junction, in aid of the New Nurses' Home, as we learn that, after all expenses are paid, the handsome sum of £120 may be added to the fund. The Play was presented by members of the nursing staff and members of Battersea Home Guard, and was received with acclamation—as all played their parts with spirit and success.

The New Home, when built, will have a delightful environment, as it will face the beautiful Battersea Park—than which no open space in London is more popular. Lovely trees, flowers and lawns with Father Thames lapping by, it has of late years become one of the most restful and salubrious parks in London. Flats nearby are very popular with Matrons and Nurses retiring after years of hard work. Congratulations to all concerned at the success of the Play—we all know the strenuous work required by producer and actors before success is attained.

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