

of Liverpool in reference to lowering the age of admission to the Final Examinations for Sick Children's Nurses and Fever Nurses.

Mr. Ouseby considered that a girl might begin her training at 17 years of age; she would not be so likely to be lost to the profession of nursing, which is in great need of recruits.

Miss Helen Dey did not consider 17 years a sufficient age from the point of view of the patient, or the girl herself, to commence training.

The Council went into Committee to further consider this matter.

Mr. Ouseby thought the lower age limit might only take effect during war time, to tide over the great stress of the hospitals during this time. Miss Willis and Miss Puxley (Ministry of Health) agreed to this suggestion.

Lady Limerick, Miss Smith, Miss MacManus and Miss Jones considered the age of 17 too young for a girl to commence her training.

Miss Campbell explained that the Fever Hospitals had been compelled for some time to take girls for training at the age of 17 and 17½ years to staff the hospitals.

The Chairman then explained that it was the duty of the General Nursing Council to see that the nurses were as fit as possible to nurse the public, it was not their function to staff the hospitals.

The Council could not prevent hospitals taking girls so young for training, but the public must be safeguarded by not lowering the age of admission to the Final Examinations.

Mr. Buckley also supported the draft reply from the General Nursing Council.

On the recommendation of the Education and Examination Committee, it was agreed that the schemes of affiliation between the Horsham Hospital, Sussex, and the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth, and between Horsham Hospital, Sussex, and Prince of Wales General Hospital, Tottenham, be provisionally approved for a period of two years, or for the duration of the war, whichever is the less.

It was reported that the following were appointed a Sub-Committee to consider matters arising out of the examinations: Dame Ellen Musson, chairman of Council, and Miss Smith, Vice-Chairman, *ex officio*; Miss Dey, Miss Gwatkin, Miss Lane and Miss Pearce.

Disciplinary Cases.

The solicitor to the Council put forward the case of Euphemia Stewart Shillinglaw, R.F.N. 9575, who was charged at the Central Police Court, Liverpool, with stealing items from a Liverpool store. The case was dismissed.

The Council discussed the case *in camera*, and agreed to postpone judgment for a period of one year.

The case of Beryl Eira Morgan, S.R.N. 72441, was considered.

She was charged at the Westminster Police Court with stealing goods from a store, fined £5 5s. and bound over under the Probation of Offenders Act. She was accompanied by a solicitor.

Her case had also come before the Central Midwives Board, who had postponed judgment until December, 1942, provided she kept on with her work.

The Council considered the case *in camera* and postponed judgment for a period of one year, so long as she remains under medical treatment.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for March 27th.

Chairmen of Standing Committees.

Finance—J. H. Buckley, Esq., J.P.

Registration—Miss D. A. Lane.

Education and Examination—Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases—Miss M. Jones, O.B.E., A.R.R.C.

Mental Nursing—Miss K. M. Willis.

General Purposes—Miss D. M. Smith.

Uniform—Miss E. C. Pearce.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES AND A PROPOSED ROLL OF ASSISTANT NURSES.

The following letter has been received from the General Nursing Council by the British College of Nurses, in reply to its communication to the Council of February 5th, 1942, asking it to define its policy concerning the proposed legal registration of semi-trained Assistant Nurses.

23, PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON, W.1.

DEAR MADAM,—I am instructed by the General Nursing Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 5th, 1942, embodying the Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Special Committee for the Protection of the Legal Status of the Registered Nurse.

I am directed to reply that the Council has not as yet been approached by the Minister of Health on the subject of the setting up of a Roll of Assistant Nurses, and it would, therefore, be premature for the Council to define its policy on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

G. E. DAVIES,

Registrar.

The President,

The British College of Nurses.

We presume that the correspondence between the Ministry of Health and the General Nursing Council on "The Status of Assistant Nurses," in May, 1939, and which we quote as follows from the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, has slipped the memory of the officials and the Council.

Letter from Ministry of Health to the General Nursing Council.

Section VI.—The Status of Assistant Nurses.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

May 10th, 1939.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to invite the observations of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on the matters raised in Section VI. of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services in regard to the status of the Assistant Nurse. The Committee makes recommendations for the establishment by the General Nursing Council, under certain conditions and safeguards, of a Roll of Assistant Nurses.

With a view to the consideration of the Committee's recommendations, he would be grateful, therefore, if he could receive, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, the views of the General Nursing Council on this part of the Committee's report.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. PATER.

The Registrar, G.N.C., etc.

Roll Approved by General Nursing Council.

REPLY FROM G.N.C. TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.
May 16th, 1939.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of May 10th regarding the proposals raised in Section VI. of the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, concerning the enrolment of Assistant Nurses and the suggestion that the keeping of such a Roll be undertaken by the General Nursing Council. I am directed to state

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)