

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 March 26th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., presided.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £520 for weekly salaries, £100 for postage, and £10 for petty cash were allowed.

Estimates were approved amounting to £380 14s. 7½d. for stationery.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Register, by examination, 2; by reciprocity, 5; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 9; by reciprocity, 3. Total, 22.

It was agreed that 437 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

Education and Examination.

Applications for additional schemes of affiliation were approved; application for approval and continuation of approval as Training Schools were agreed. Pre-Nursing Courses were approved.

General Purposes.

Applications from candidates for the post of Second Assistant Registrar were considered *in camera*, and it was agreed that Miss Mary Nicol Henry, S.R.N. 103520, trained at University College Hospital, London, 1937-1940, be appointed Second Assistant Registrar.

Disciplinary Cases.

The case of Annie Rigby, S.R.N. 45531, was considered *in camera*, and her name was ordered to be removed from the Register of Nurses.

The case of Constance Sara Hawker (*née* Bowyer) S.R.N. 115981, was considered, and the Council decided to postpone their decision until they received medical certificates to substantiate claims of ill-health.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for April 30th.

OTHER BUSINESS.

THE NURSES BILL.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales then proceeded to consider the "Nurses Bill" clause by clause, introduced into the House of Commons by the Minister of Health, on Wednesday, March 17th.

With the exception of the following clauses the Council agrees to the provisions of the Bill, thereby accepting the responsibility of compiling and supervising the Roll of semi-trained Assistant Nurses and a List of other nurses as provided in the Bill, and thereby agreeing to de-grade the standards of nursing training and education in force under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, a contract made with upwards of 100,000 nurses, for which privileges they have paid close on a million pounds.

CLAUSES CONSIDERED IN THE MINISTER OF HEALTH'S BILL.

(3)—The Assistant Nurses' Committee.

The Chairman, Dame Ellen Musson, said that the matter concerning the Assistant Nurses' Committee would require

very careful consideration, because in the Act this Committee was empowered to act in the name of the Council.

It was agreed that Parliamentary Counsel's advice must be sought.

(4)—Fees.

It was considered that the sum of one guinea for enrolment, and the sum of 2s. 6d. retention fee, needed consideration; this figure needed revising, it was based on fees in force more than 20 years ago.

(6)—Restriction on Use of Title of Nurse and Assistant Nurse and Penalties for Misuse of Certificates and Falsification.

This clause was considered confusing and gives very wide powers to the Minister.

It provides that proceedings for an offence in such a case are not to be instituted except with the consent of the Minister. It was agreed that the Council ask for this section to be deleted.

(7)—Conduct of Agencies for Supply of Nurses.

(1) A person carrying on an agency for the supply of nurses shall, in carrying on that agency, only supply:—

- (a) Registered nurses;
- (b) Enrolled assistant nurses;
- (c) Certified midwives;
- (d) Such other classes of persons as may be prescribed.

This clause was considered to be wide and dangerous, and it was agreed to ask the Minister to supplement this by a definite schedule.

(11)—Application of Part II and of Existing Enactments.

As this clause is very ambiguous some explanation concerning it is required.

(13)—Sister Tutors.

The Council considers that the wording of this section does not meet the case, as the Council does not give certificates of efficiency to Sister Tutors.

(14)—Procedure as to Rules and Regulations.

The Council has had power to make Regulations to be approved by the Minister; the suggested procedure now is that the Minister shall make the Regulations, thus depriving the Council of important powers of administration hitherto exercised by it.

(15)—List of Certain Nurses Not Registered or Enrolled.

This clause provides for compiling a List of unregistered nurses who have been engaged in nursing the sick after varied experience since 1925. As the entire syllabus of the training of nurses during the past 20 years has advanced with the evolution of medicine and surgery, the Council wish to know how this clause is to be carried out. The clause wants to be made clear.

(16)—Application of Fees, and Expenses of Council.

The Council agreed that this provision must be made clear, and that List and Roll must pay for themselves, as there are no other means by which they can be carried on.

(17)—Interpretation.

Under the section dealing with "Children's Nurse," it was considered that it jeopardised the position of the Registered Sick Children's Nurse.

First Schedule.

Constitution and Proceedings of Assistant Nurses' Committee.

The Bill provides for an Assistant Nurses' Committee. It is proposed that the Committee of Assistant Nurses be composed as follows:—

Six persons appointed by the Council, one not to be a

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