

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.1, on April 30th. Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., I.L.D., presided.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reported the receipt of a reply from the Minister of Health in answer to the letter containing recommendations sent from the Council in connection with the Nurses Act.

Miss R. A. Cox-Davies expressed regret at the tone of the Minister's reply concerning the recommendations, very carefully considered, by the Council, which he had passed over so lightly.

Miss M. Jones supported Miss Cox-Davies, saying she felt very strongly the offhand manner in which the Minister had dealt with their recommendations. Watch would have to be kept on the Council's behalf.

The Chairman reported that the Nurses Bill had received the King's Assent, and the Minister would furnish the names of the five appointed representatives on the Assistant Nurses' Committee before the next Meeting of the Council. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should suggest names for the six representatives of the Council on this Committee, to be agreed at the next Meeting.

Correspondence.

The Chairman read the following letter from the British College of Nurses, Ltd. :—

April 8th, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

MADAM,—At a Special Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., held on Saturday, March 27th, the Bill for the enrolment of Assistant Nurses, and the control of "Nurses' Co-operations" was carefully considered, and it was agreed to communicate its conclusions to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

(1) My Council wishes to protest against the provision in the "Nurses Bill" to give legal status to a class of nurse who has failed to undergo systematic training and examination, and thus qualify herself as a safe attendant on the sick, and specially that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Governing Body of the Registered Nurses after training and examination, shall be responsible for compiling the Roll of semi-trained nurses, and guaranteeing them to the public, who would inevitably confuse them with skilled Registered Nurses, to the economic and social depreciation of the latter. As the Royal College of Nursing has promoted the agitation for the enrolment of semi-trained nurses, it should be made responsible for establishing and enforcing the Act.

(2) My Council also enters a strong protest against the use of the Registered Nurses' Headquarters, 23, Portland Place, London, W.1, which they have erected, for the conduct of the business of their Governing Body, the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, for the purpose of organising Assistant Nurses, and other classes of semi-trained persons.

(3) As no secure basis of finance is apparent in the "Nurses Bill," the provisions of which the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, without the consent of its constituency, has consented to administer, the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., gives notice that its members absolutely refuse to be made responsible for

financing a scheme which, in their opinion, not only degrades their professional status, but endangers the lives of the sick public.

(4) To prevent the public being imposed upon by unscrupulous Agencies and Nurses' Co-operations, my Council is of opinion that they should be organised by special legislation controlled by a Government Department, and not by local County and Borough Councils, the members of which have no expert knowledge of professional nursing, and whose administration might not be unbiased.

I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON, *Secretary.*

On the recommendation of Mr. J. H. Buckley, Chairman of the Finance Committee, it was agreed that the letter be noted.

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, £40 for Insurance Stamps, and £10 for Petty Cash were allowed.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Part of the Register by Examination, 1; by reciprocity, 7; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 4; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by Examination, 11; by reciprocity, 1. Total, 25.

It was agreed that 399 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 schemes of affiliation were provisionally approved and extended; provisional approval as Training Schools was extended, and the one-year whole-time course at Llandrindod Wells County School was provisionally approved for the purposes of Part I of the Preliminary Examination.

Disciplinary Cases.

The case of Violet Winifred Stamp, S.R.N. 84,204, was considered.

She was on night duty at the Hambrook Village Hospital, near Bristol, when three babies were taken ill. Two of them subsequently died, and at the inquest it was revealed that narcotic poison was found in the organs of the two babies.

Miss Stamp appeared before the Council; the Matron of the hospital and a doctor also gave evidence.

The Council considered the case *in camera*, and as the facts were not satisfactorily proved, the case was dismissed.

The case of Constance Sara Hawker, S.R.N. 115,981 (deferred from last Meeting of Council), was considered *in camera*, and the Registrar was directed to remove the name of Mrs. Constance Sara Hawker from the Register of Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for May 28th.

ENROLMENT OF ASSISTANT NURSES. ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

When listening to Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., Minister of Health, in the House of Commons on March 24th, 1943, when he moved "That the Nurses Bill be now read a second time," our attention was arrested by the following

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