

question of prescribing the qualification of teachers of nurses. An *ad hoc* Committee has been set up to deal further with this matter.

Scheme of affiliation and continuation of approval of Hospitals as Training Schools for Nurses were considered. Pre-Nursing Courses were approved.

Mental Nursing.

It was agreed that Miss A. M. Rose be invited to serve on the Committee in place of Mrs. Whitehurst, resigned.

General Purposes.

Estimates to the value of £395 5s. 0d. for equipment for the Assistant Nurses' Department were accepted.

Uniform.

It was agreed that Miss A. M. Rose be invited to serve on the Committee, in place of Mrs. Whitehurst, resigned.

Assistant Nurses' Committee.

As the Minister of Health is anxious to have the Rules for the existing and intermediate Assistant Nurses in hand by the middle of August, draft rules were before the Council for their consideration.

The London members of Council were invited to attend a formal meeting on August 20th to approve the Rules before submitting them to the Minister.

The Rules also have to be sent to the General Nursing Council for Scotland for their observation.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for September 24th.

The Council then went *in camera* to consider certain business.

REMARKS.

Unjustifiable Finance.

Considering that Registered Nurses are now liable under the new Nurses Act, 1943, for any deficit which may occur in the cost of administering the Roll of Assistant Nurses, the announcement that they are to be called upon to pay additional fees is not surprising. It is proposed that an extra 6d. shall be reimposed for the retention of their names on the Register annually; also a charge of 2s. 6d. will be made for their original certificate, and 1s. for the original permit for the registered uniform. Already hundreds of pounds of our money have been allocated by the General Nursing Council to meet the initial cost of organising the Assistant Nurses Roll, and officials engaged for the purpose are being paid very liberal salaries.

It is computed that there are now 108,000 nurses on the Register, so that the reimposition of 6d. each for the retention of their names on the Register should provide an income of £2,700. It seems incredible that this additional tax will be paid without protest for the purpose of promoting unjust economic competition.

Welcome to Male Nurses.

We congratulate and heartily welcome the decision to include the names of male nurses in the General Part of the Register. Those men who attain the necessary standard of efficiency have a right to be included.

Incidentally the male nurses have set women a good example. When justice is necessary, demand it and agitate till you get it.

We hope the male nurses will help to terminate the habit of the G.N.C. of conducting our vital business *in camera*, the secret system through which the Council and the Ministry of Health have deprived the electorate of Registered Nurses of powers of speech and liberty of action concerning their professional affairs.

"The British Journal of Nursing" refuses to accept money which may belong to Registered Nurses for the purpose of the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Department.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, QUEEN'S GATE, LONDON, S.W.7.
July 7th, 1943.

To THE REGISTRAR,
General Nursing Council for England and Wales,
23, Portland Place, W.1.

MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge the advertisement for THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING dated July 5th, 1943.

In reading it, I noted that paragraph (1) is for "Officer in Charge of Assistant Nurses' Department." To save time, I communicated with you on the telephone informing you that THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, which is a professional Nursing Journal, could not place this clause of the advertisement in its columns as (1) the policy of the Journal is for justice for Registered Nurses, and strongly disapproves of the de-grading policy agreed to by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales *in camera* to control the Roll of semi-trained nurses, and (2) presumably this advertisement will be paid for out of funds subscribed by Registered Nurses for the organisation of their Profession, in accordance with the provisions of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919.

I must, as Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, decline to accept money, on its behalf, which I am of opinion the General Nursing Council for England and Wales should have refused to expend in lowering the status of the Registered Nurses to whom it belongs.

As upon further communication on the telephone, clauses in the advertisement which refer to the work of the Council for Registered Nurses, and for which therefore they have a justifiable right of expenditure, are to be withdrawn unless I connive with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in a policy which is an outrage to my conscience.

Under these circumstances, I note that you refuse to insert the other clauses advertising for officers for the General Nursing Council for England and Wales as heretofore.

As the message withdrawing the whole advertisement was delivered over the telephone, may I ask you to confirm it in writing.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
ETHEL G. FENWICK,
Editor.

Miss G. E. Davies, Registrar, confirmed in writing the refusal to insert the advertisement without the offending paragraph.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "Harriet Martineau." John Cranstoun Nevill.
- "This War Cicero." H. J. Haskell.
- "The Track." Arturo Barea.
- "The Long Parliament." Journal of Simonds D'ewes.
- From the First Recess of the Long Parliament to the withdrawal of King Charles from London.

FICTION.

- "Tambourine, Trumpet and Drum." Sheila Kaye-Smith.
- "So This is Love." Edward Woodward.
- "The Pandervils." Gerald Bullett.
- "Running to Paradise." John Lodwick.
- "Never to Marry" and "The Reluctant Duchess." Alice Duer Miller.
- "The Laughing Ghost." Dorothy Eden.

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