

object of staff, matron and hospital management in everything that they do; and one of the strongest arguments for the establishment of nurses' representative councils is that they can help in this. The Liaison Committee point out that their advice that matters of personal conduct, etc., should be excluded from discussion implies, and is based on the assumption, that the individual nurse has the right of access to the appropriate committee in the event of her desiring to lodge a complaint or an appeal. Looked upon from the matron's point of view, the establishment of a nurses' council, based on these principles, would provide her with a convenient and direct means of access to the staff as a whole, with the knowledge that she was dealing with a responsible body from whom she could look for co-operation in all proper ways. As in all administration, the size of the unit considerably affects the exercise of the chief administrative authority's control, and matrons must often feel that it is difficult for them, in the case of a large staff, to obtain close and accurate contact with the real opinions and viewpoint of their nurses as a body when they have to work solely through personal observation and the reports of individuals. In addition, the matron might very possibly find that the proposals of the nurses' council often assisted in furthering reforms and improvements in practice originated by herself.

We invite Registered Nurses to express their opinions on this proposal, especially in reference to the exclusion of the head of the nursing staff.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRONS.

Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W.— Miss F. L. A. Lane, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; in Sick Children's Nursing at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton; in Midwifery at the City Hospital, Nottingham; and in Housekeeping at the Ancoats Hospital, Manchester. Miss Lane has been Sister-in-Charge, Private Ward Unit, Scarborough Hospital; Home Sister at the Halifax Royal Infirmary; Assistant Matron and Housekeeping Sister at the Scarborough Hospital.

"THEY FOUND A SHOE."

*They found a shoe,
A shoe for a baby's foot,
That was dancing the day before.
—A little blue shoe.
When they kill the children,
They kill in us
The wish to forgive, and we echo
The words of the Master.
" 'Twere better a millstone were hanged
About their necks
And they drowned in the depths of the sea."
They KNOW what they do.
Sending the pilot-less planes
Carriers of Death
To the helpless, the weak and the old.
—The children left
Will be fighting as are our sons
In coming years,
Unless we refuse to forget
The devil's handiwork.
God give us strength to repay
To the uttermost end
The debt that we owe to the dead.*

H. TREVELYAN-THOMSON.

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 October 27th. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., presided.

Death of Miss A. M. Bushby.

The Chairman reported the death of Miss A. M. Bushby, the representative of Registered Sick Children's Nurses on the Council from January, 1923, to December, 1927, and for a further term to December, 1932. Miss Bushby was an active member of several Committees during the whole of the period she served on the Council. The Council rose and paid silent tribute to her memory.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,200 for Weekly Salaries, £300 for Salaries (Election), £600 for Postage, £1,200 for Election Postage, £25 for Petty Cash, and £70 for Insurance Stamps, were allowed.

Estimates for stationery of £47 2s. 6d., £2 14s. 2d., £39 7s. 6d., and for the Assistant Nurses' Committee of £7 19s. 3d., were accepted.

Registration.

Draft Rules referred back to the Committee.

Draft Rules for the removal of a nurse from the Register by reason of infirmity of mind or body were considered by the Council before being submitted to the Minister of Health for approval.

Dr. Macaulay said he had studied the Rules with great apprehension, which might appear attractive to the public, but thought they would create more evils than they were set out to cure.

As the Rules were set out he considered they would entail an annual certification of health from all nurses before their names could be entered in the Register of Nurses.

On the Register were to be found names of nurses suffering from infirmities which old age brings. Having given honourable work in the past, are their names to be struck off? Also, some young nurses have been injured by enemy action in this war. Some have lost their sight. Are their names to be struck off the Register?

If rules are being framed, they must be consistent.

If such a rule were passed, every nurse would be subject to any kind of attack by ignorant and malicious individuals.

What machinery can the Council set up to deal with these cases? It is not a Court of Law. Such cases could lead to appeals in the High Court, and Dr. Macaulay considered it unfair to the Council which was not competent to deal with them. Any nurse on the Register could be a victim of a malicious charge, and she would be put to a great deal of trouble to defend herself.

Dr. Russell Brain said he was sorry to have to oppose this Rule, but he felt sure the Council did not realise what it implied. He considered the Rule neither practicable nor just, and hoped the Council would reject the Rule.

Miss Dey, after a good deal of thought, agreed with Dr. Macaulay; there were too many difficulties to be overcome before it could be brought into effect. Such harshness of procedure would be a very dangerous thing for nurses.

Dame Ellen Musson pointed out that only in extreme cases when specialists have assured the Council that a nurse is not fit to nurse again would her name be taken from the Register. The public must be protected as well as possible.

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