

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 January 28th.

After Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., had signed the Minutes of the previous meeting, Miss D. M. Smith took the chair.

Election of Chairman.

The next business on the Agenda was the Election of Chairman. Dame Ellen Musson had signified her intention of not standing for nomination for a further term of office. There was only one nomination, that of Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., who was elected Chairman of Council.

Miss Smith proposed the following resolution:—

RESOLUTION.

"That this Council places on record its deep appreciation of and gratitude for Dame Ellen Musson's outstanding work, not only for the General Nursing Council but also for the Nursing Profession as a whole.

"Most especially, the Council would stress its appreciation of her wise and vigorous Chairmanship throughout the past 18 years, of the high standard which she has always set, and of the way in which she has given so generously of her time and talents. Dame Ellen is resigning the Chairmanship, but the work of future Councils will be built securely on the strong foundations she has laid during her years of Office."

Miss H. Dey, Miss E. E. P. MacManus Dr. H. M. C. Macaulay, Mr. J. H. Buckley, Dr. Rees Thomas, and Miss E. C. Pearce supported the Resolution.

Dame Ellen Musson, replying to the resolution, thanked the Council for their courtesy, patience and kindness during her term of office, and said that the work at times had been very difficult, but that they had been able to maintain a pleasant atmosphere, and when they had quarrelled they had quarrelled nicely.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and the late Miss Isla Stewart, she had been convinced that without State Registration the Nursing Profession would be very, very helpless.

Election of Vice-Chairman.

It was announced that there was only one nominee for the post of Vice-Chairman, Dame Ellen Musson, who was elected for the present year amidst acclamation.

Correspondence.

The Minister of Health intimated to the Council that he did not raise any objection to the appointment of salaried inspectors of institutions where assistant nurses were being trained, but no grant towards expenses could be made. The Council had very large reserves, and if they did not which to draw upon those, they could obtain an overdraft from the bank.

He agreed to the retention fee being raised from 2s. to 2s. 6d. annually.

The Minister of Health is prepared to support any application made to the Paper Control for sufficient paper to carry on an election of Council at the end of the present year, and to sanction extra staff being employed for the purpose.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,000 for Weekly Salaries, £250 for Postage, and £60 for Insurance Stamps, were allowed. Estimates for £130 and £176 0s. 8d. in respect of stationery were accepted.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were:— General Part of the Register by Examination, 2, by reciprocity, 14; Supplementary Part of the Register for Male Nurses, by Examination, 1; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 5, by reciprocity, 1. Total, 24.

It was agreed that 67 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

LIST OF NURSES (NURSES ACT, 1943, SECTION 18)

Applications for admission to the List were considered, and 282 General Nurses, 5 Male Nurses, 13 Mental Nurses, 9 Sick Children's Nurses, and 71 Fever Nurses, were found to be in order and approved for admission to appropriate parts of the List.

NUMBER OF NURSES REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1943.

	By Examina- tion.	By Reci- procity.	Total.
General Part of the Register	6,135	64	6,199
Supplementary Part of the Register for—			
Male Nurses	31	—	31
Mental Nurses	122	30	152
Nurses for Mental Defectives	7	—	7
Sick Children's Nurses ...	298	16	314
Fever Nurses	872	34	906
	7,465	144	7,609

TOTAL NUMBER OF NURSES REGISTERED FROM SEPTEMBER, 1921, TO DECEMBER, 1943.

		Including by Exami- nation
General Part of the Register ...	125,432	82,009
Supplementary Part of the Register for—		
Male Nurses	603	366
Mental Nurses	9,221	2,143
Nurses for Mental Defectives ...	513	133
Sick Children's Nurses	5,289	4,118
Fever Nurses	14,035	11,507
	155,084	100,276

Education and Examination.

A scheme of affiliation was approved, and schemes of affiliation were withdrawn.

As St. Pancras Hospital, N.W.1, is no longer being used as a Training School for Nurses, the approval was withdrawn.

Pre-Nursing Courses were approved, and names of Examiners were added to the Panel of Examiners.

General Purposes.

It was agreed that the scale of War Bonus in force for members of the Council's staff be amended as from November 1st, 1943, in accordance with the new scales payable in the Civil Service, and, further, that in future such scale be subject to any changes made in that of the Civil Service.

Estimates of £52 16s. for 12 lockers and £17 12s. for four lockers and £27 8s. for two wooden filing cabinets were accepted for the Assistant Nurses' Department.

Disciplinary Cases.

The case of Betsy Eileen Glennon, S.R.N. 112544, was considered. She was charged at the Salford Police Court with stealing large quantities of bedding and towels from the Salford Hospital, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. The stolen articles were ultimately returned to the hospital.

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