

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 February 25th, 1944. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., presided.

The Chairman reported the death of Dr. John Fawcett, member of Council from 1927-1932, and Chairman of the Finance Committee. It was agreed that a message of sympathy be sent to Mrs. Fawcett.

The Chairman reported that the Minister of Health had approved the Rules for Existing and Intermediary Nurses under the Nurses Act, 1943.

Finance.

It was reported that Mr. H. M. Walton has been elected Chairman of the Finance Committee for the ensuing year.

Bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £900 for Weekly Salaries was allowed.

Registration.

It was reported that Miss D. A. Lane was re-elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Applications for approval for Registration were:—General Register by reciprocity, 13; Supplementary Part of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 2; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 4; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 18, by reciprocity, 5. Total, 42.

It was agreed that 81 nurses who had hitherto not paid their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

It was agreed that the names of 2,585 nurses who had not paid their Retention Fee for 1944, be removed from the Register in accordance with the Rules, Part II, Rule 5 (3).

List of Nurses—(Nurses Act, 1943, Section 18).

It was agreed that 164 general nurses, 3 male nurses, 8 mental nurses, 3 children's nurses, and 21 fever nurses whose applications have been found to be in order, be approved for admission to the appropriate parts of the list.

It was reported that a sub-Committee had been appointed to consider applications for admission to the list of nurses. Members of the sub-Committee were:—Miss D. M. Smith, Chairman of Council, Dame Ellen Musson, Vice-Chairman, Miss D. A. Lane, Miss E. C. Pearce, and Miss K. M. Willis.

Education and Examination.

It was reported that Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., O.B.E., had been re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Applications for approval as training school, for schemes of affiliation, for continuation of approval, and for termination of a scheme of affiliation, were agreed.

It was reported that a sub-Committee consisting of Miss D. M. Smith, Dame Ellen Musson, Miss Campbell, Miss L. G. Duff Grant, Miss D. A. Lane, Miss E. C. Pearce, and Miss K. M. Willis had been appointed to consider the revision of the Examination Syllabus.

An *Ad Hoc* Committee to deal with Qualifications of Sister Tutors and matters relating to Post-Registration Courses was appointed, consisting of Miss D. M. Smith, Dame Ellen Musson, Miss Helen Dey, Miss Catnach, Miss L. G. Duff Grant, Miss D. A. Lane, and Miss E. C. Pearce.

The following members were appointed a sub-committee to consider matters arising out of the examinations:—Miss D. M. Smith, Dame Ellen Musson, Miss Helen Dey, Miss Catnach, Miss D. A. Lane and Miss E. C. Pearce.

General Purposes.

It was reported that Miss K. M. Willis has been elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Uniform.

It was reported that Miss E. C. Pearce has been re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the Roll of Assistant Nurses be opened on March 20th, 1944, and that an official notice announcing the opening of the Roll be sent to the Press.

It was agreed that two Inspectors of Training Schools for Assistant Nurses be appointed who shall be State Registered Nurses having experience as Ward Sisters, in hospital administration and in the training of nurses. The appointment in the first instance to be on a temporary basis at a commencing salary of £425 per annum plus travelling and subsistence allowances.

Disciplinary Case.

The case of Miss Elizabeth Williams, S.R.N. 13178, R.F.N. 2858 was considered. Miss Williams, ex-Matron of Liverpool City Hospital, had been charged with stealing rationed foodstuffs, hardware and a carpet from the hospital. She was bound over in her own cognisances, to come up if called upon, at Liverpool Assizes.

The Council considered the case *in camera* and agreed to postpone judgment for one year, Miss Williams to place herself under medical care for that time, when the Council would re-consider the matter.

Next Meeting of the Council.

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

Committee of Council.

It was agreed that Committee of Council be taken *in camera*.

REMARKS.

Since our last issue, Rules made by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, under Part I of the Nurses Act, 1943, relating to a Roll of Assistant Nurses, have been laid before Parliament. The Rules set out the procedure for admission to the Roll of "existing" assistant nurses and assistant nurses with "intermediate" qualifications. They cover the period before rules prescribing the future training of assistant nurses (now in course of preparation) are made and approved.

Women with varied experience of nursing, with or without hospital experience—tuition or examination, are eligible for enrolment. They must produce references of good character from lay persons, doctors or matrons—a standard discarded upwards of a quarter of a century ago.

The future curriculum for enrolment is now under consideration. Nothing in the Rules for the enrolment of Assistant Nurses alters the fact that the new Act institutes a class of second-grade women as nurses, legally empowered to compete with highly-trained qualified Registered Nurses as provided by the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919.

WE HAVE EVERY HOPE.

We have every hope (may it not be a delusion) that the more the new Minister of Health studies the Nursing Question, the more he will realise its importance so far as national health is concerned. Anyway at the opening of the new Preliminary Training School for Nurses at Hampstead he recently sent the students the following encouraging message: "Both in the next few months and after the war, skilled nursing is going to be of paramount importance."

No skill is attainable without serious study and application. Let the Minister set the pace and discourage shoddy standards prescribed in the Nurses Act, 1943.

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