

LORD HORDER FACES BOTH WAYS.

Having, as Chairman of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee of the Royal College of Nursing, used all his professional and social power to de-grade the Nursing standards attained by members of the Nursing Profession during the past half century, at the cost to them of upwards of a million pounds, having supported the late Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., in thrusting through Parliament the Nurses Act, 1943, which grants legal status to unqualified women under the title of "Assistant Nurses," it is surprising to find him advocating in the *Times* higher standards for Student Nurses, and bewailing that in the Government's White Paper, "Matters relating to the nursing profession have been given so little consideration," and claiming that the education and training of Nurses should be regarded as part of a great national scheme of adult education and the real foundation of nursing should be laid in the hospital training school.

"Nursing," writes Lord Horder, "is an art and a science of increasing complexity, and it is the scientific opportunity, quite as much as the humanitarian appeal, which to-day attracts the recruit to the profession." Lord Horder then calls for financial support of Nursing Schools.

But, alas! whilst now expressing these pious opinions, the "Assistant Nurses" Organising Committee, which Lord Horder has been mainly instrumental in promoting, is busily at work compiling the Roll of Unqualified Assistant Nurses, at the Headquarters, 23, Portland Place, W., of the Registered Nurses—*without their consent*, who have been compelled, also without their consent, to finance for nearly twelve months the cost of compiling the Roll already in active economic competition with them.

Lord Horder cannot have it both ways. He has done all in his power to de-grade the efficient standards of Nursing already attained, and he has consented to the outrageous policy, under Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, of pooling the Registered Nurses' fees, and thus compelling them to pay for their own de-gradation.

We Registered Nurses will never submit to his demand, to pay for the hemp for our own hanging. We intend to fight this gross injustice to the bitter end, and the sooner Lord Horder realises the fact the better for all concerned.

Is it presumable that had the eminent members of the Medical Profession de-graded, in recent years, standards of Medicine instead of raising them, by devoted service and self-sacrifice, that My Lord Horder would have climbed into the Peerage? We doubt it. His treatment of the Nursing Profession is therefore the more ungenerous.

Anyway, we will not pay without exposing this unconstitutional and tyrannical demand. Rule 19 of the Nurses Act, 1943, which pools the fees of the Registered Nurses for the use of the organisation of the Assistant Nurses Roll, must be swept away, and the sooner the better.

The British College of Nurses, Ltd., intends to organise a publicity campaign to obtain financial justice for Registered Nurses, and it is to be hoped that the Matrons of Nurse Training Schools will instruct Student Nurses that they will be called upon to finance unqualified competitors granted legal status under the Nurses Acts, 1943.

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 March 24th. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., presided.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

A letter was reported from the Minister of Health sanctioning the appointment of two Inspectors of Training Schools for the Assistant Nurses, at a commencing salary of £425 per annum, rising by annual increments of £20 to a maximum of £525. The Minister wants to know the rate of subsistence allowance the Council propose to pay these Inspectors.

The Minister of Health notified the Council that he sanctions the holding of an Election of Council at the end of this year, and agrees to the engagement of up to 15 temporary clerks for the purpose, their services to commence from May of this year.

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, £200 for Postage, £40 for Insurance Stamps, and £10 for Petty Cash were allowed.

An estimate of £30 was accepted for 1,500 copies of the Rules for Existing Assistant Nurses and Assistant Nurses with Intermediate Qualifications drawn up under Part 1 of the Nurses Act, 1943.

Estimates were accepted to the value of £867 6s. for printing and stationery in connection with the Election of Council.

Estimates for further printing and stationery amounting to £1,468 6s. 4d. and £25 12s. 6d. were approved.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Register, by examination, 2; by reciprocity, 8. Supplementary Parts of the Register for Mental Nurses, by reciprocity, 5; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 3; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 14. Total, 32.

It was agreed that 274 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register should be reincluded.

Applications for Admission to the List of Nurses.

Applications for admission to the List of Nurses have been received from 179 General Nurses, 4 Male Nurses, 13 Mental Nurses, 1 Nurse for Mental Defectives, 13 Sick Children's Nurses, and 49 Fever Nurses. Total 259. These applications were found to be in order, and were approved for admission to the appropriate parts of the List.

The revised draft form of Certificate to be issued to nurses whose names are entered on the List, was approved.

Education and Examination.

Applications for approval for a scheme of affiliation, for continuation of approval of Hospital as Training School of Nurses, and Pre-Nursing Course, were approved.

It was agreed that the draft outline of proposed Nurse Teacher's Course be approved; that approach be made to the University of London with regard to setting up such a Course, and that a conference on the subject be held with representatives of those bodies at present conducting courses for Nurse Teachers.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

It was reported that the Council's solicitor had been instructed to take action under Section 8 (1) of the Nurses' Registration Act against two persons who have falsely

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