

represented themselves to be Registered Nurses. This action was approved.

Mental Nursing.

It was agreed that the approval of St. Andrew's Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich, as a Complete Training School for Nurses for Mental Diseases be withdrawn, but without prejudice to the position and rights of nurses already admitted for training.

General Purposes.

The Council received, with regret, the resignation of Miss E. F. Nock, First Assistant Registrar, to take effect in July next. Miss Nock has done good work for the Council since 1927. It was agreed that Miss Henry, Second Assistant Registrar, be promoted to the position of First Assistant Registrar, and that the appointment of Second Assistant Registrar be advertised.

It was agreed that, subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, the following appointments be made: An Assistant Accountant, a Second Principal Clerk in the Registration Department; and a Principal Clerk in the Uniform Department.

Disciplinary Case.

The case of Catherine Darling Barker, S.R.N., 56,928, now serving six months' imprisonment, and deferred from last meeting of the Council, was considered *in camera*, and the Registrar was directed to remove the name of Catherine Barber from the Register of Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for April 28th.

BUREAUCRACY.

All Registered Nurses with an ounce of spirit will welcome the following demand of the brilliant leader writer in the *Evening Standard*, as their fine profession has practically ceased to exist as work for free women, owing to the bureaucracy of Mr. Ernest Brown, late Minister of Health, defined in his Nurses Act, 1943:—

"As soon as possible after hostilities end we desire," states the *Evening Standard*, "that Parliament should refresh itself at the true source of political wisdom. We want our servants to be confirmed in their mastery over the Executive. We want them to be strengthened not merely to combat but to defeat the increasing encroachments upon our lives and liberties of the sleepless, ever-ardent bureaucracy. Above all, we insist that M.P.s should receive the people's mandate for their post-war world.

"Yet another priority is the resignation by Ministers of their privilege to conduct the affairs of this country by regulations and Orders in Council. Already, there are 6,000 of these Orders. They enable bureaucracy to operate in the dark. They sink the people's initiative in a sea of official forms. Because we recall that Dora was enduring long after she ceased to be endearing, we would like to see all regulations and Orders in Council examined in the light of day and revised now so that they might be restricted now."

"So say all of we!"

IS JEALOUSY A DISEASE?

Just before the War began a German scientist had under consideration the study of jealousy, which he maintained was a definite disease. As this mental condition afflicts the majority of women, especially in Great Britain, we are keeping an eye on his investigations. Let us hope he is still alive to continue his valuable work after the War ceases.

No profession has suffered more from the jealous intolerance of women than that of Nursing, both inside and outside its sphere of influence.

OUR NURSING HERITAGE.

We eagerly open and read *Una*, the official organ of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing, Melbourne, Australia, which inspires us with hope for the future of nursing standards in Great Britain. The January issue just received opens with a reference to the Australian Nursing Federation Conference held in Sydney, the report of which is not yet to hand.

AUSTRALIAN NURSING FEDERATION CONFERENCE.

It is confidently hoped that the discussions between delegates from all the States and the resolutions formed will go far towards solving problems in the conditions and difficulties of student and graduate nurses.

Lady Wakehurst, who officially opened the conference, urged uniformity of standards for nurse training throughout Australia. There were 11 Acts relating to nursing in Australia, Lady Wakehurst said. It was emphasised that cultural activities should be encouraged for a well-stored mind was just as important as nursing training and that it would be a tragedy if the minds of student nurses were forced into one small, narrow groove without recognition of other graces which were part of a full life.

At the open meeting held on the evening of December 1st in the board room of Sydney Hospital, Miss Bell took as her address "Our Nursing Heritage."

The year 1943 had brought nurses face to face with the most far-reaching challenge they had ever had to meet. In common with every other national activity, they had undergone a veritable revolution, and with the imposition of man-power had been deprived of their freedom and civil liberties in a way undreamt of four years ago.

The conference of delegates from every State branch of the A.N.F. was welcomed therefore to give the opportunity of a professional stocktaking of both assets and liabilities as well as to formulate and set out the definite aims it is hoped to achieve.

(1) *Insistence upon Governmental and Community Recognition of Nursing as an Important and Indispensable National Service.*—Nurses had a definite responsibility to the community at large for honest, faithful and efficient work. They were among the first persons called upon in national emergency such as war or serious epidemics and were trained for these in civil life. Miss Bell considered they were entitled to a reasonable measure of economic security, and a decent standard of living for these very reasons.

(2) *Self-Government and Professional Freedom.*—Full acknowledgment was given to a nurse's obligation to the medical profession and the rendering to its members loyalty, skill, and ungrudging co-operation while working under their directions. At the same time, nurses wished to preserve their freedom and work out their salvation in their own way, in personal and economic concerns. They wished to shape their destiny as a body of professional women unfettered by political dominance or control.

(3) *What Nurses Owe to Their Calling.*—They must not be too careful about counting the cost of achievement, but must realise that one's outlook must not be

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