

**Disciplinary Case.**

The case of Violet Bex Sampson, S.R.N. 97456, was placed before the Council. She had obtained morphia from St. Bernard's Emergency Hospital, Southall, for a Dr. F. C. Toner, who said he wanted it for a patient.

Miss Sampson was fined £20 on the first charge, and £5 on the second charge. She appeared before the Council and said she did not know that Dr. Toner was a drug addict.

The Council considered the case *in camera*, and agreed to dismiss the case with a caution, taking a very serious view of the whole matter.

The Council then went *in camera* to consider the draft reply to the Minister of Health in connection with the Report of the Nursing Reconstruction Committee (referred by Council May 26th, 1944, arising out of the letter from the Ministry of Health). Also to consider the question of superannuation in the case of Miss Nock, Assistant Registrar, on her retirement in July, 1944, after 16 years' service on the staff of the Council.

**Next Meeting of the Council.**

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

## A STATE REGISTERED MALE NURSES' SERVICE IN MINES.

The employment of State Registered male nurses in mines is dealt with in a memorandum which has been drawn up by the Society of Registered Male Nurses, and has all our sympathy.

The memorandum is being submitted to the Minister of Fuel and Power in pursuit of the Society's representations and opinion that the health and welfare of miners will benefit if State Registered male nurses are employed in the mines. It has been prepared by members of the Society who, in addition to being fully qualified nurses, have had experience in mines above and below ground.

The Society say they believe that it is in the interests of miners, mine owners and the profession of nursing that State Registered male nurses be employed in the mines; and that this is a service necessary to the new national nursing services as visualised in the recently published White Paper. The present industrial nursing services are well thought of by all concerned; they continue to grow and an increasing number of male nurses are employed in this field.

**Society's Suggestions.**

The following suggestions are made as to the nurses to be employed:—

(a) That the nurses be male nurses, general trained and State Registered.

(b) That the nurses should have post-graduate experience in casualty work in a casualty department of a general hospital, and in medical and surgical wards.

(c) That the nurses shall be physically fit; have a good personality; and should be acquainted with legislation applying to the employment of personnel of mines and workshops.

(d) That the nurses should undertake to become familiar with all facilities which exist in the area for the health of the community—*e.g.*, (1) pithead canteens, (2) hospital services, (3) district nursing services—so as to be in the best position to encourage them and their use by the miners and their families.

(e) The nurses should undertake to become thoroughly informed as to the prevention and treatment of the diseases particularly associated with the mining industry, especially within the district in which each nurse is employed.

**Scope and Organisation.**

Dealing with the scope and organisation of the service, the Society put forward the following proposals:—

1. Mine owners should be encouraged by the Ministry of Fuel and Power to develop their arrangements in the direction of improved health services among their employees.

2. To this end, a Nursing Advisory Officer at the Ministry would be particularly useful.

3. All colliery first-aid stations should be in charge of a trained nurse, who would attend and see all casualty and illness cases. (The Society do not seek to discourage or supplant the excellent first-aid services which already exist in the mines and for which they have the utmost regard, but to strengthen them and increase their value to the miner and his employer.)

4. The male nurse would on all occasions give such attention to any casualty as would make the subsequent removal and treatment of the utmost value, and so secure a rapid recovery and return to work.

It is pointed out that by arrangement with the colliery medical officer, treatment beyond the scope of the first aider can be given, *e.g.*:

(a) Administration of drugs for relief of pain, thus allowing the scope and effectiveness of immediate treatment to be increased. This is of particular value in view of the relative importance of pain and shock.

(b) Administration of sera may be desirable.

(c) It may be that some immediate surgical treatment on the spot is required, in which case full preparation and full expert assistance would be available to the surgeon.

5. Trained male nurses could become valuable members of rescue teams, provided that they are allowed to take the proper course of training with the teams.

6. Nurses would be able to organise, in consultation with the Medical Officer, an efficient and comprehensive follow-up service for all employees under treatment. This could take the form of a clinic arranged at the colliery first-aid station, or at the surgery of the Medical Officer. In addition, where necessary, treatment could be carried out at the home of the employee under care. It is felt that this would be particularly useful—(a) because of the distance, in many cases, between mines and the hospitals, and the undoubted adverse effect of lack of rest to the casualty during transit over that distance; (b) there are many cases which the Medical Officer would like to keep under his own care, *e.g.*, fracture cases under ambulatory treatment. This, it is felt, would reduce the time of recovery and speed up return to work.

7. The nurse would assist in the training of first-aid personnel.

8. The knowledge of dietetics possessed by the nurse will be useful in advising the provision of satisfactory meals in pithead canteens, where this is not already provided for.

9. Full co-operation with the District Nursing Service will be promoted.

10. Records will be maintained by the nurse, showing the extent of time lost by each individual case and the cause.

11. The numbers of nurses to be employed will, of course, depend upon the size of the pit, the numbers of other staff employed.

The sooner this Service is organised the better.

**THE VIRILITY OF MALE NURSES.**

We have watched the progress of male nurses during the past few years with great interest, feeling sure they would make rapid progress. Men realise the value of united action, and are in this respect a valuable example to women.

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