

Approval of Hospitals as Training Schools, Affiliated Training Schools, and Pre-Nursing Courses were agreed.

#### General Purposes.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee it was agreed to purchase one multilith printer at a cost of £466, plus £50 19s. 4d. purchase tax.

#### Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that 1,088 applicants, whose applications have been found to be in order, be admitted to the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and St. Martin's Hospital, Bath, be provisionally approved as Complete Training Schools for Assistant Nurses for a period of two years.

Borough Councils, with untrained control, are evidently pushing the Assistant Nurse, presumably being unable to obtain Probationers for complete training.

#### Disciplinary Cases.

Miss Isabella Morrison, R.M.N. 9383, found guilty of stealing a dressing case and hot-water bottle from a Home for Aged Women War Victims, was removed from the Register of Nurses.

The case of Miss Ellen Keane, S.R.N. 131434, and R.F.N. 12532, concerned with other persons, in stealing clothing coupons from the book of a deceased patient was considered, and the Council postponed their judgment on the facts proved, for a period of one year.

The case of Miss M. H. Holland, S.R.N. 107145, found guilty of immoral conduct, was considered, and the Council directed the Registrar to remove the name of Mary Hannah Holland from the Register of Nurses.

#### Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for November 23rd, 1945.

### AN HISTORIC DOCUMENT.

As we go to press we have received the first issue of the *International Nursing Bulletin*, the new quarterly publication of the International Council of Nurses, which opens with greetings from the President. We propose to postpone remarks thereon until our next issue. Suffice it to say, we consider this four-page publication an historic document, which will in future be carefully preserved, as every issue of this journal has been; thus placing the progress of nursing throughout the world on record.

Our Executive Secretary, Miss Anna Schwarzenberg, has, in the past, proved herself an expert journalist.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain is summoned to meet on Friday, November 16th, at 45, Gloucester Place, W.1, at 2.15 p.m., when an interesting Agenda will be considered, the most important item of which will be to receive and consider the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Reconstitution of the National Council.

It will be remembered that a Special Committee had this matter under consideration in 1939, and that it was deferred on the declaration of war.

### NURSING POLITICS.

#### THE LEGAL POSITION OF REGISTERED NURSES UNDER THE NURSES' ACT, 1943.

The new Labour Government, as was anticipated, has got its hands full in every direction at home and abroad, and it would appear that National Health—and in connection with it, the nursing of the sick—will take an active part in its deliberations.

We must therefore carefully take stock of our legal position which, under the Nurses' Act, 1943, is most unsatisfactory, and carefully interest intelligent Members of Parliament in Nursing politics. Every well-trained Registered Nurse should communicate with and interest her Member of Parliament in what is termed the Nursing Question. It will then be realised that very few men and *no women* (although there are now 23 women Members in the House) are apparently interested in the efficient nursing of the sick.

The Athlone Committee began the agitation for lowering nursing standards in 1937; then came the war, and saved us for the time being; but in 1942, a Sub-Committee of the Royal College of Nursing—with a lady at the head of a Private Nurses' Organisation in the chair—recommended the legal organisation of the Assistant Nurse. The Royal College approved the recommendation; Lord Horder came forward to take an active part; the then Minister of Health Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P. (Leith Borough), "confidentially" drafted a Bill for the purpose of granting legal status to partly-trained so-called Assistant Nurses—which Bill was rushed through Parliament and became law in April, 1943, Regulation 19 sweeping away the privileges financial and otherwise of the State Registered Nurses, whose cash and Headquarters became available (as they are to this day) for the undermining of their statutory privileges as provided in the Nurses' Registration Acts of 1919, and for the entire financial cost of which we State Registered Nurses have paid upwards of a million pounds to date.

#### FOUR CHAMPIONS.

The Registered Nurses have now four champions in the House of Commons who, during the past two years, have publicly in the House of Commons tackled three Ministers of Health on the autocratic control exercised by Ministers over Registered Nurses. The depreciation of their status by such policy, the more inexcusable as the Treasury does not contribute one farthing towards the expenditure necessary for the organisation—examinations, and publication of the Register of Nurses—the four Members of Parliament who have taken action are: Sir Ernest Graham-Little, M.P., B.A., F.R.C.P. (London University); Sir Waldron Smithers, J.P., M.P. (Orpington); Mr. H. N. Linstead (Putney); and Commander Clark Hutchison, M.P. (Edinburgh West).

#### WHAT IS A NURSE ?

According to the 1943 Nurses Acts only a Minister of Health is endowed with the infallibility of forming judgment on this point, and when Mr. Willink decided that "Christian Science" workers were to be recognised and enrolled (registered) the limit of absurdity and danger to the sick public had been reached.

Be that as it may—both Mr. H. N. Linstead, M.P. for Wandsworth, Putney; and Commander Clark Hutchison, M.P. for Edinburgh West, tabled a motion to annul the Draft Nurses' Regulations under Provision B, Section 1, of the dangerous Nurses' Act, 1943, which gives "Christian Science Nurses" the right to use that title, though untrained and refusing to work under medical direction.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)