

which supports the utilisation of their fees for purposes for which they have not been subscribed.

We commend the official paragraph, submitted to us for publication by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, notifying that "there are still many thousands of Registered Nurses who have not yet forwarded their Retention Fees for 1945" to the consideration of Mr. Henry Willink, Minister of Health.

We can assure the Minister that so long as his department condones the misapplication of our money for purposes for which it has not been subscribed, it is inevitable that the self-elimination of highly qualified Registered Nurses from the ranks of the Nursing Profession will ultimately deprive the sick of the standard of nursing demanded and paid for by conscientious and self-supporting Registered Nurses.

We warn Mr. Willink that he must cease to permit the misapplication of the Registered Nurses' fees.

Registered Nurses will not be surprised to learn that there is another Nurses' Bill before the House of Lords concerning which they have not been consulted.

Presumably, legislation for the Nursing Profession is not a matter in which it is desired it should take any part.

On this occasion, however, we believe that Registered Nurses would be in sympathy with its aims and object.

A Bill intituled an Act to exclude county and district nursing associations and other similar organisations from the operation of Part II of the Nurses Act, 1943, and Part II of the Nurses (Scotland) Act, 1943.

The Lord Hare (E. Listowel).

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. In Part II of the Nurses Act, 1943 (which imposes certain requirements on persons carrying on agencies for the supply of nurses), the expression "agency for the supply of nurses" shall not include the business carried on by any county or district nursing association or other similar organisation, being an association or organisation established and existing wholly or mainly for the purpose of providing patients with the services of a nurse to visit them in their homes without herself taking up her residence there.

2. In Part II of the Nurses (Scotland) Act, 1943 (which imposes certain requirements on persons carrying on agencies in Scotland for the supply of nurses), the expression "agency for the supply of nurses" shall not include the business carried on by any county or district nursing association or other similar organisation, being an association or organisation—

(a) Established and existing wholly or mainly for the purpose of providing patients with the services of a nurse to visit them in their homes without herself taking up residence there; or

(b) mainly or substantially supported by voluntary subscriptions and providing patients with the services of a nurse whether or not the nurse takes up residence in the patient's house.

3. This Act may be cited as the Nurses Act, 1945, and the Nurses Acts, 1919 and 1943, and section one of this Act may be cited together as the Nurses Act, 1919 to 1945, and the Nurses (Scotland), Acts 1919 and 1943, and section two of this Act may be cited together as the Nurses (Scotland) Acts, 1919 to 1945.

Let us hope this will not be the last amendment to this exceedingly faulty Act (the Nurses Act, 1943), drafted and submitted to Parliament by Mr. Ernest Brown, the late Minister of Health, after evading several requests from the British College of Nurses, Ltd., for an interview to place before him the opinions of Registered Nurses concerning their own affairs.

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 January 26th, 1945.

Election of Chairman.

Dr. H. M. C. Macaulay took the Chair, and announced that only one nomination had been received for the office of Chairman, that of Miss D. M. Smith, and she was accordingly appointed to the Chairmanship for the ensuing year. She thanked the Council, and said that she would do her best for the Council with their help.

She welcomed the new Councillors, and said the experience and knowledge they brought to the Council would be valued.

Election of Vice-Chairman.

As there were two nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman, Miss M. Jones and Miss E. C. Pearce, an election was necessary. The result of the election was: Miss Jones, 13 votes; Miss Pearce, 8 votes, so that Miss Jones will be the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

A letter was reported from the Ministry of Health informing the Council that a Bill was introduced into the House of Lords to exclude county and district nursing associations, and other similar organisations, from the operation of Part II of the Nurses Act, 1943, and Part II of the Nurses (Scotland) Act, 1943.

A letter was reported from the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland saying they were in full agreement with the proposed Comprehensive Scheme of Training and that they had agreed to set up a Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,400 for Weekly Salaries, £700 for Postage, £70 for Insurance Stamps, and £2,000 for Examiners' Claims were approved.

Estimates to the value of £29 for 2,000 copies of Rules for Assistant Nurses; general items of stationery to the value of £166 7s. 7½d.; £7 12s. 9d.; and £303 10s. 6d. were accepted.

Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration were:—General Register, by reciprocity, 8; Supplementary Part of the Register for Nurses for Mental Diseases, by reciprocity, 2; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 4; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 16, by reciprocity, 5. Total, 35.

It was agreed that the names of 78 Nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

It was reported that 7,559 Nurses had been registered during the year, 1944, by examination, and 152 by reciprocity, making a total of 7,711.

Total number of Nurses registered from September, 1921, to December, 1944, were: 162,794, of which 108,834 were registered by examination.

List of Nurses.

Applications were received from 51 General Nurses, 1 Male Nurse, 7 Nurses for Mental Diseases, 2 Sick Children's Nurses, and 14 Fever Nurses for admission to the List of Nurses. All were approved.

Education and Examination.

It was agreed that as from February, 1946, the organisation of the Council's Examinations and the conditions of

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