

March 27th, 1945.

DEAR MADAM,

I should be grateful if you would publish the following letter in the next issue of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING. As the President of the Association of Hospital Matrons, I was surprised to see a report in your last issue of a general meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons, as no Press were invited and no member of the Association has the authority to give a report of the meeting for publication; but that is not the purpose of this letter.

The purpose of this letter is to contradict absolutely the paragraph on page 30 of your last journal, under the heading "Christian Science Attendants," which also refers to the same meeting of the Association of Hospital Matrons. No member present asked the Minister whether Christian Science Nurses had been placed on the Assistant Nurses Roll. The Minister did, therefore, not make the reply that nine of such nurses had been placed upon the Roll. The question of Assistant Nurses or Assistant Nurses' Roll was not mentioned at the meeting.

I should be glad, therefore, if you would take every opportunity to contradict this mis-statement in your paper.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN DEY.

To the Editor, THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

This communication from Miss Dey we, of course, put on record, with the following remarks:—

1. The report of the meeting alluded to, which appeared on page 26 of our last issue, was, in no sense, a surreptitious communication. It was sent from the Ministry of Health for insertion in this journal, with which authority we were quite content—and we had pleasure in giving publicity to the encouraging remarks of the Minister of Health to our colleagues in active practice.

2. On page 30 of the same issue Miss Dey takes exception to the paragraph under Nursing Politics, "Christian Science Attendants," and states "That no member present asked the Minister whether Christian Science Nurses had been placed upon the Roll."

We accept this statement; but before inserting the paragraph, given to us apparently from a reliable source, we communicated with the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and received the reply from the Registrar that the Minister of Health had placed "Christian Science Nurses" on the Assistant Nurses' Roll, and that:

"My Council has protested most strongly against the official recognition by the Minister of persons who have no training whatever as nurses of the sick, and steps are being taken to bring the matter to the attention of Members of Parliament."

ASSOCIATION OF HOSPITAL MATRONS.

We have before us "Notes on the Year's Work, 1944," of the above Association, and note that one of the objects "is to consider and, if necessary, take action upon legislative proposals calculated to affect the interests of the Nursing Profession."

May we enquire what the Association has done in connection with the de-grading of Nursing Standards through the Nurses Act, 1943?

We know that the Association approved the enrolment of Assistant Nurses, and urged the General Nursing Council in no uncertain terms to support it, we find that although the membership of the Association at October 30th, 1944, is reported as 1,000, no united action in opposition to de-grading was taken at Headquarters or by any Branch!

The question now is: What are the 1,000 members of the Association, presumably Registered Nurses, going to do to prevent the Minister of Health granting legal status to untrained "Faith Healers" as nurses, and thus endangering the lives of the helpless sick?

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 March 23rd. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,700 for Weekly Salaries, £250 for Postage, £70 for Insurance Stamps, and £20 for Petty Cash were approved. Estimates for Stationery to the value of £556 8s. 6d. including £12 10s. 3d. for Assistant Nurses receipt books were agreed.

Registration.

Applications for approval for registration were:—General Register by reciprocity, 3; Supplementary Part of the Register for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses by Examination 6, by reciprocity, 1. Total, 11.

It was agreed that 38 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included, should be re-included.

List of Nurses.

It was agreed that 14 general nurses, six nurses for mental diseases, two sick children's nurses, and five fever nurses be admitted to the List of Nurses.

It was reported that Miss Lane, Miss Campbell, Miss Houghton, Miss Willis; and Miss Smith, Chairman of Council, and Miss Jones, Vice-Chairman of Council, *ex officio*, were appointed a Sub-Committee to consider applications for admission to the List of Nurses.

Under certain conditions it was agreed that reciprocity between the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Nurses and Midwives Council of the United Provinces of India be established.

Education and Examination.

It was agreed that the date of the opening of the Index of Student Nurses shall be June 1st, 1946, and that this date be inserted in the Rule covering the establishment of such an Index, which Rule is now before the Minister of Health.

The Council considered the advisability of including in the Rules for Sister Tutors drawn up under Section 14 of the Nurses Act, 1943, a clause giving Council discretion to waive compliance with the requirements laid down for the issue of a Certificate of Registration as a Sister Tutor in such cases as they shall think fit; and it was agreed that the following Clause be added after Rule 42 (a) (iv): "Provided that the Council may, at their discretion, waive compliance with any of the above requirements or modify such requirements to such extent as they think fit," and that this clause be submitted to the Minister of Health for approval.

Application for approval as Affiliated Training School for General Nurses was provisionally approved; termination of scheme of affiliation was agreed; continuation of approval of Hospitals was approved; and Pre-Nursing Courses were approved.

General Purposes.

It was agreed that estimates of £65 for two built-up typewriters, and £68 18s. 1½d. for 25 Solid Oak Leg Bases for Index Card Cabinets be accepted.

Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that 863 applicants whose applications have been found to be in order be approved for enrolment in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

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