

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.1, on June 22nd. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Miss K. C. Watt, Chief Nursing Officer, Ministry of Health, upon being created Dame Commander, Order of the British Empire, in the King's Birthday Honours. Dame Kathrine Watt acknowledged the congratulations.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £16,000 for Examiners' Claims and Examinations Accommodation, £1,500 for Weekly Salaries, and £600 for Postage, were allowed.

Estimates for Stationery for Assistant Nurses to the value of £139 14s. 9d. were accepted.

The Revenue Account and Balance Sheet, submitted by the Government Auditor for the year ended March 31st, 1944, was adopted.

Registration.

The number of successful candidates at the April Examinations were: General Register, 3,245; Supplementary Part of the Register for Male Nurses, 12; for Nurses for Mental Diseases, 61; for Nurses for Mental Defectives, 20; for Sick Children's Nurses, 141; for Fever Nurses, 322. Total, 3,801.

Applications for approval of Registration were: General Register by reciprocity, 6; Supplementary Part of the Register for Sick Children's Nurses by reciprocity, 2; for Fever Nurses, by examination, 11, by reciprocity, 3. Total 22.

It was agreed that the names of 330 nurses, who had their names reincluded in the Register, should be reincluded.

List of Nurses.

Applications to the List of Nurses were: General Nurses, 81; Male Nurses, 4; Nurses for Mental Diseases, 4; Sick Children's Nurses, 5; Fever Nurses, 13. Total 107.

It was reported that copies of the Register of Nurses for 1944 and 1945 have been received from the Registered Nurses Association of the Province of Quebec, and the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board, Brisbane.

Education and Examination.

It was agreed that the following Draft Rule, to be inserted after the new rule relating to the establishment of an Index of Student Nurses, be approved and submitted to the Minister of Health for his approval; and further that this Rule be brought into operation on June 1st, 1946, provided that it has been found possible for six months' notice of the implementation of the rule to have been given to the authorities of Training Schools.

RULE.—The minimum age of entry to training shall be eighteen years. The name of an applicant shall not be entered upon the Index of Student Nurses until she has attained that age.

Correspondence was considered with the Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Birmingham, regarding the establishment by the University of a Course for Sister Tutors.

It was agreed that in accordance with Section 14 of the Nurses Act, 1943, the University of Birmingham be approved as an institution for the purposes of the establishment of Sister Tutor Courses.

It was agreed that the whole-time course of instruction and training of one year's duration for the Sister Tutor's Diploma, approved by the University of Birmingham for the session 1945-46, be similarly approved by the Council and that registered nurses who obtain the Sister Tutorial Diploma of the University of Birmingham on completion of such course, be entitled to receive from the Council a Certificate of Registration as a Sister Tutor.

The University of Manchester was also approved as an institution for the purposes of the establishment of Sister Tutor Courses.

Application for approval, of additional scheme of affiliation, and continuation of approval of hospitals were agreed.

Mental Nursing.

It was agreed that the Middlesex Colony, Shenley, be provisionally approved as a Complete Training School for Male and Female Nurses for Mental Defectives for a period of two years, also that Cranage Hall Certified Institution, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, be provisionally re-approved as a complete Training School for Male and Female Nurses for Mental Defectives for a period of two years; and the provisional approval of Botley's Park Colony, Chertsey, as a complete Training School for Male and Female Nurses for Mental Defectives be extended for a further period of two years.

General Purposes.

It was agreed, that Miss V. R. Robinson, Principal Clerk in the Examinations Department, be appointed Examinations Officer; that Miss M. E. Craven, R.R.C., Matron of the Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford; and Miss M. G. Gill, retired Matron of Wallasey Central Hospital be appointed Inspectors of Training Schools—the appointments to be on a temporary basis for a period of one year for reconsideration at the end of that period; and it was reported that Miss M. B. Edwards, S.R.N. and Miss G. M. Heppell have been appointed as Principal Clerks in the Registration and Examinations Departments.

House Committee.

Financial arrangements were made in connection with the possession of No. 17, Portland Place.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council will be held on June 27th.

We have received a copy of the Balance Sheet which is, of course, very interesting and it will appear next month.

We are, however, disappointed that the cost of the organisation of the Assistant Nurses' Roll is not included from the passing of the Act, April 1943 to March 31st 1944.

The Registered Nurses have the right to know details as their fees may be used to meet the expenses of enrolling the Assistant Nurse.

SHORTAGE OF WOMEN WORKERS IN HOSPITALS IN LONDON.

The announcement that women prisoners from Holloway have been employed on domestic work at Guy's Hospital is the result of shortage for these duties, we presume, of British women. The announcement that in view of this serious shortage of women for domestic work in hospitals women recruits from Belgium, numbering about 300, have arrived in England, and it is hoped a second party will follow. There is still a large number of vacancies for hospital domestic workers, and if our women will not do it, we presume there is nothing to do but employ foreigners.

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