

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 October 25th, 1946.

The Chairman, Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., presided.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reported an answer from the Minister of Health concerning the application of the Council for a further increase in the staff to deal with great arrears of Council work, and extra work in connection with Mental Nurses holding the R.M.P.A. Certificate being admitted to the Register for Mental Nurses, and sanctioned the appointment of 70 new members of staff, only two-thirds of the number the Council considered necessary. The Minister wishes to be informed when these extra clerks are allocated.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,800 for weekly salaries, £1,050 for Postage, £100 for Insurance Stamps and £30 for Petty Cash were allowed.

Estimates for stationery to the value of £174 1s. 2d. and £117 19s. 4d. were approved.

Registration.

It was agreed that recognition by reciprocity be granted to Registered Sister Tutors accepted by the General Nursing Council for Scotland, and that the fee for the issue to such applicants of a Certificate of Registration as a Sister Tutor be 10s. 6d.; it was further agreed that the necessary amendments to the Rules be drawn up by the Council's Solicitor and forwarded to the Minister of Health for approval.

It was agreed that the names of 66 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

Education and Examination.

Withdrawal of approval of Hospitals as Training Schools for Nurses were agreed. Hospitals were provisionally approved as Training Schools for Male Nurses. Pre-Nursing Courses were approved.

Assistant Nurses.

It was reported that the Minister of Health has extended the term of office of the present Assistant Nurses' Committee by one further year, to May 1st, 1948.

It was reported that the Royal College of Nursing hope to hold the first course for teachers of Assistant Nurses at the College from April 14th to May 10th, 1947.

Applications for approval of Hospitals as Training Schools for Assistant Nurses were received from the Public Assistance Committee, Durham County Council; The Public Health Committee, East Riding of Yorkshire County Council; the Public Health and Assistance Committee, Stockport Borough Council; the Secretary, Mount Vernon Hospital and Radium Institute, Northwood; and the Committee of Management, St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury.

There were 1,401 applicants approved for the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Disciplinary Cases.

The Council considered the case of Peggy Burrows (now Mrs. Pilkington) S.R.N. 137663, and directed her name to be removed from the Register of Nurses.

The Council postponed their judgment on the facts proved against Katharine Elizabeth Ogg, S.R.N. 140973, for the period of one year.

The Council postponed their judgment on the conviction proved against Suzetta Ede Smith, née Kendall, S.R.N. 38176 for a period of one year.

The Council dismissed the case of Ellen Keane, S.R.N. 131434, judgment was deferred by Council on October 26th, 1945.

Restoration to the Register.

The Council agreed to restore the name of Betsy Eileen Glennon, S.R.N. 112544 in the General Part of the Register of Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next Meeting of the Council was fixed for November 29th.

RETENTION FEES FOR 1947.

State Registered Nurses are reminded that their Retention Fees for 1947 are due, and that failure to pay the fee may result in the removal of a Nurse's name from the Register. Notifications have been posted to all Registered Nurses, and those who have not yet sent their fees should do so immediately, giving full name, registration number and permanent address for the Register.

Attention is drawn to the restrictions on the use of the title "Nurse" which are contained in the regulations drawn up by the Minister of Health under the Nurses' Act, 1943, and to the importance therefore that every Registered Nurse should ensure that her name appears on the Register of Nurses.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRONS.

Croydon General Hospital, Surrey.—Miss J. H. M. Gunning, R.G.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, where she later returned as Sister Tutor and as Assistant Matron. Miss Gunning has also been Ward Sister at the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton; Housekeeping Sister at the Royal Hants County Hospital, Winchester; Ward Sister at the Isolation Hospital, Mitcham; Sister Tutor and Home Sister at the General Hospital, Altrincham; and Assistant Matron at the City of York General Hospital.

Selly Oak Infirmary, Birmingham.—Miss Edith V. Wheeler, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Chester Royal Infirmary, and has been Home Sister and Assistant Matron at the Southend General Hospital, and Assistant Matron at the Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham.

City Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium, Leicester.—Miss Dorothy Blanchard, S.R.N., R.F.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained in General Nursing at Batley and District Hospital, Yorks; in Midwifery at Leeds Maternity Hospital; and in Fever Nursing at Seacroft Fever Hospital. Miss Blanchard has been Assistant Matron at the City Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium, Holy Road, Leicester.

THE PROBLEM OF RHEUMATISM.

We are pleased to learn that Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, said the Minister was personally interested in the problem of Rheumatism.

He declared: "So far as my own Minister and officials of the Ministry of Health are concerned, we are going to make Rheumatism one of the big problems that will be tackled under the National Health Service proposals—with the proviso that we can do only what accommodation and staff will permit.

"We must have adequately trained staff for dealing with Rheumatism cases.

"We must have a group of young people who are adequately trained as general physicians and who have had training in the study of rheumatic diseases.

"If young people will come forward, we can offer them a career in the field of Rheumatism."

This is good news, as sufferers from this painful disease seldom receive the sympathy which they deserve.

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