

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

Meetings of the General Nursing Council for Scotland were held on January 11th and 25th, 1946.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, G.B.E., LL.D., was elected Chairman, and Miss Elizabeth Brodie, M.B.E., was elected Vice-Chairman. •

Approval was given to a Whole-time Two-years' Pre-Nursing Course at the Logan and Johnston School, Glasgow.

The Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, was approved as a Male Training School, as was also Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow. Robroyston Hospital, Glasgow, in affiliation with Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, and Mearnskirk Hospital, Newton Mearns, affiliated to Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, were also approved as affiliated Male Training Schools.

Rules prescribing qualifications of Sister Tutors were passed by the Council, and were forwarded to the Secretary of State for approval.

Approval was given to the inclusion of the names of 351 persons in the Roll of Assistant Nurses under the Nurses (Scotland) Act, 1943.

The names of 455 Nurses were removed from the Register of Nurses for non-payment of the Retention Fee.

Two applications for Reciprocal Registration, from England and Canada, respectively, were considered and approved.

Finance.—The Report of the Finance Committee was submitted and approved and the accounts were passed for payment.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Council be held on Friday, February 22nd, 1946.

THE DEATH OF SIR COMYNS BERKELEY, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

The news of the death of Sir Comyns Berkeley in Middlesex Hospital on January 27th was naturally received with mixed feelings by members of the Nursing Profession. Those who know anything of its history, realise that a medical man has passed who had taken a very active part in the attempt to depreciate the status attained by the Nursing Profession through the Royal Charter granted to the British Nurses' Association by Queen Victoria in 1892, the true history of which appears alone in this Journal, and can be studied by those conscientious members of the profession who desire to know the truth.

Suffice it to say that the policy of Sir Comyns Berkeley, then Treasurer of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to hand over its privileges, was smashed by the article which appeared in this Journal headed "Nurses Save Your Charter," and at a united meeting of the R.B.N.A. and the College of Nursing, Ltd., when members of the R.B.N.A. outvoted the very specious terms offered by the College for its absorption, when Sir Comyns Berkeley transferred his services as Treasurer to the then College of Nursing, Ltd., which position he has held from that day to this.

Further comment on this historic event is unnecessary.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

The National Insurance Bill now before Parliament, is, in our opinion, a Monster Pauperisation Bill, and will encourage shirking and idleness more than anything could possibly do, and is calculated to ruin the moral fibre of the people. It will find employment for many incompetent members of the proletariat.

Anything which undermines the moral fibre of the British people at the present time is a national disaster.

Evidence is ample on every side that what we need is the encouragement to the utmost effort of every individual capable of service.

ARMY NURSING SERVICES REUNION.

Past and present members of the Army Nursing Services met at a Reunion on February 9th. Mrs. K. L. Wilkinson the Matron-in-Chief, and Nursing Officers of the War Office staff acted as hostesses.

Mrs. Wilkinson said that in this war the casualties to the Nursing Services had been very much higher than in the previous war, which indicated greater risks taken by the nurses and greater services rendered.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICITY.

A leading member of the Nursing Profession has sent this admirable letter for publication to the *Daily Telegraph*, hoping for its wide publicity:—

January 22nd, 1946.

To the Editor of the "*Daily Telegraph*."

SIR,—The Minister of Health recently recommended the full acceptance of the revised scale of salaries for Ward Sisters. These Nurses are justly entitled to the increases recommended by the Rushcliffe Committee. One fails to understand, however why the salaries of those holding positions entailing the responsibility of the nursing, and nursing administration of an entire hospital have not also been increased.

These women, prior to their appointment, have gained wide experience and in many cases hold post-graduate qualifications following specialised training. According to the Rushcliffe Committee such women holding teaching and administrative posts in the smaller hospitals are not only to receive a salary disproportionate to that of their subordinates, but in many instances even less. To cite examples: a Matron of a hospital of 299 beds, on appointment, receives only £40 per annum more than a Ward Sister on maximum salary, who may be in charge of a ward of 16 beds or 60. A Sister Tutor with five years' experience as a Ward Sister prior to qualifying, receives, on appointment, a lower salary than she would have done had she remained as a Ward Sister. In what other profession would such a scale be accepted by its members?

Unless steps are taken by all those concerned to rectify this gross injustice, suitable nurses will fail to qualify for the teaching and administrative posts, in fact women will not enter or remain in a profession where unfair conditions exist, with subsequent disastrous effects on the whole standard of nursing.—Yours faithfully,

D. R. W., S.R.N., S.C.M.,

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Croydon, Surrey.

WHAT TO READ.

MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "A Pilgrim in Arabia." H. St. John B. Philby.
- "The Scarlet Tree." Sir Osbert Sitwell.
- "In My Time." Recollections and Anecdotes. Field-Marshal Lord Birdwood of Anzac and Totnes.
- "I Wouldn't Have Missed It." Henry Longhurst.

FICTION.

- "The Rise of Henry Morcar." Phyllis Bentley.
- "The Green Years." A. J. Cronin.
- "The King's General." Daphne du Maurier.
- "The Dove Found No Rest." Dennis Gray Stoll.
- "The Story of Veronica." Denise Robins.
- "After September." Barbara Hedworth.
- "You are the One." Berta Ruck.
- "Repent at Leisure." Anne Duffield.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- "Come Alongside." Commander A. B. Campbell.
- "Alone Over the Tasman Sea." Francis Chichester.
- "English Literature at the Close of the Middle Ages." Sir E. K. Chambers.

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