

rendered for hundreds of years to the community and to the State and a poor recognition of the pious founders who made their services possible.

"Surely the proper course would be to recognise the unmeasured value of these services by paying for them. It is true that those services are prompted by a devotion which the State could never understand and for which it could never pay, but it can pay a cash value which would enable the hospitals to carry on and to develop their work without the constant worry of finance and without having to consider whether they can afford something that may mean the life of a mother or the health of a child.

"We hope our fears are unfounded and that both doctors and hospitals will not only be left free to carry on their great tradition of service but that they will have behind them the whole of the resources which only the State can supply. The cost of modern medical treatment is today often such as cannot be met from private sources, but the results are such as have never before been attained. No figure can measure the cost of human pain and suffering and none can measure the value of its relief. The State can and should supply the money, but only our hospitals, our doctors and our nurses can give it life and breath and power."

DOCTORS RAISING CAMPAIGN FUND.

PREPARING FOR DISPUTE WITH GOVERNMENT.

We are quoting this medical opinion as set forth by *The Times* as we consider that the Nursing Profession should be acquainted with the policy of the Medical Profession under whose direction they work.

A fund is being established by the Council of the British Medical Association to "further the cause of the medical profession in any major dispute which may occur between the Government and the medical profession in connection with the proposals for the national health service."

The B.M.A., with a membership exceeding 50,000, has guaranteed £100,000. Every member of the profession is being urged to guarantee as much as he can—at least £25 is suggested.

The *British Medical Journal* states that the fund will be in two parts. Part "A" will be for the purpose of providing the general funds, from which the administrative propaganda, and allied expenditure will be met. Part "B" will be used for the purposes of the "A" fund and also for the compensation of individual doctors who, because of their adherence to the cause of the profession, suffer exceptional financial hardship.

A leading article in the *British Medical Journal* states:—

"The cost of this campaign will be borne from existing resources, but should Parliament prove obdurate and refuse to modify proposals in the Bill which the profession might consider to strike at the essential freedoms of medicine, the doctors of this country might have to decide not to work in the new service. Such a decision would not be taken lightly, nor would such a decision mean that medical men would withhold their skill from patients in need of it. It would mean simply that the majority of doctors would continue to serve their patients outside and not inside the new service. If this happened, vastly greater resources would be needed and it is with this possibility in mind that the council has caused the new fund to be established."

REAL WEALTH.

There is no wealth, but life, including all its powers of love, of joy and admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy beings. That man is the richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest influence, both personal and by means of his possessions of the lives of others.

JOHN RUSKIN (*Unto This Last*).

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 February 22nd. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., presided.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

It was reported that the nominations of Miss E. E. P. MacManus and Miss E. C. Pearce had been received in connection with the request of the Colonial Office for one representative to visit the West Indies to examine the Nursing situation there.

Miss E. C. Pearce withdrew her nomination in support of Miss MacManus who was appointed to undertake the journey.

Correspondence.

A letter was reported from the University of London inviting inspection by the Council of the Sister Tutor Course at Battersea Polytechnic and the Royal College of Nursing for the Sister Tutor's Diploma. Miss Houghton and Miss Catnach were appointed by the Council.

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, £500 for postage, £50 for Insurance stamps and £10 for petty cash were allowed.

Estimates for stationery to the value of £200 18s., and questionnaires for Assistant Nurse Training Schools at a cost of £8 14s. 10d. were approved.

It was reported that a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman of Council, Vice-Chairman of Council, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee has been set up to consider the position in regard to the salaries of the Council's staff.

Registration.

Applications for approval for registration on the General Register were by examination, 2; by reciprocity, 8; on the Supplementary Part of the Register for nurses for mental diseases by reciprocity, 3; for male nurses by reciprocity, 1; for sick children's nurses by reciprocity, 1; for fever nurses by examination, 6; by reciprocity, 3. Total, 24.

It was agreed that the names of 62 nurses who had not hitherto paid their retention fee, and now wished their names included in the Register, should be re-included.

It was agreed that the names of 4,071 nurses who had failed to pay their retention fee for 1946 be removed from the Register in accordance with the Rules, Part II, Rule 5 (3).

List of Nurses.

Applications for admission to the List of Nurses were: General nurses, 7; male nurses, 2; nurses for mental diseases, 1; fever nurses, 3. Total, 13.

It was reported that Miss Lane, Miss Hillyers, Miss Willis (Miss Smith, Chairman of Council, and Miss Jones, Vice-Chairman of Council *ex-officio*) were appointed a sub-committee to deal with applications for admission to the List of Nurses.

Education and Examination.

Draft amendments to the Rules regarding entry to the Final Examination for Sick Children's Nurses and Fever Nurses were agreed to be submitted to the Minister of Health for his approval.

It was agreed that the Test Examination be re-introduced in June, 1947.

Applications for approval of Hospitals as Training Schools and pre-Nursing Courses were agreed. It was

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