

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

A meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices, 23, Portland Place, London, W., on March 22nd. Miss D. M. Smith (Chairman) presided.

### Death of Miss Ruth E. Darbyshire, C.B.E., R.R.C.

The Chairman reported the death, on March 7th, of Miss Ruth E. Darbyshire, member of Council from 1933 to 1937, and Vice-Chairman from 1935 to 1937. Miss Smith represented the Council at the funeral. The Council stood in silence to her memory.

### Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

A letter was reported from the Ministry of Health that the Assistant Nurses Rules had been before both Houses of Parliament.

### Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,650 for weekly salaries, £12,000 for examiner's claims, £300 for postage, £100 for insurance stamps, and £20 for petty cash were allowed.

Estimates to the value of £134 9s. 9d., £174 3s. 9d., and £509 9s. 6d. for stationery and printing were accepted.

### Registration.

Applications for approval for registration were 11 by examination, 21 by reciprocity. Total, 32.

It was agreed that the names of 460 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.

It was reported that at the February Examination the following candidates were successful:—

<i>Preliminary Examination</i> —Part I. and Part II. ...	1,296
Part I. only ...	1,160
Part II. only ...	768
	3,224
<i>Final Examination</i> —	
General Register ... ..	1,823
Male Nurses' Register ... ..	14
Mental Nurses' Register ... ..	27
Mental Defectives' Register ... ..	1
Sick Children's Nurses' Register ... ..	78
Fever Nurses' Register ... ..	217
	2,160

It was agreed that the qualifications of teachers of the professional subjects in pre-Nursing Courses be sent to the Ministry of Education for approval.

Schemes of affiliation and pre-Nursing Courses were approved.

It was agreed that reasonable expenses be paid to all applicants for nurses' examinerships attending the offices of the Council for interview by the Education and Examination Committee.

### Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

It was agreed that the name of Nellie Murphy (*nee* Cameron), No. 419, be removed from the List of Nurses. She was convicted at the Liverpool Court of Assize on a charge of using an instrument upon a female with intent to procure her miscarriage.

The Registrar was directed to remove the names of Violet Gladys Henry, R.S.C.N. 4591, and Myfanny Llewellyn

(now Mrs. Woodall), S.R.N., 88274, from the Register of Nurses.

### Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that 918 applicants whose applications have been found to be in order be approved for enrolment and their names entered in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

### Next Meeting of the Council.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council be held on April 26th.

## THE ASSISTANT NURSES COMMITTEE.

We have received from the Acting Registrar General, Nursing Council for England and Wales, Miss M. Henry, a correct and up-to-date list of the members of the Assistant Nurses Committee, so that Registered Nurses may know who are promoting the legal status of these semi-trained opponents to the care of the sick through the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Ministry of Health.

It is not of much importance who carries out this disastrous policy. We note amongst them one person of German Swiss antecedents (now at the head of the London County Council Nursing Department).

The organisation of the Assistant Nurses Committee has now been promoted since 1943, and what the Registered Nurses are most eager to know, and apparently have great difficulty in obtaining this information, is the receipts and expenditure of the Assistant Nurses Committee. We have asked for it officially from the office of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and gather from the reply that the accounts in connection with this work, started in 1943, have not yet been made public.

We, as Registered Nurses, demand that the accounts of the Assistant Nurses' Roll shall be separately kept and published irrespective of the accounts of the Registered Nurses, but so far this just demand has not been complied with. Why?

If the Ministry of Health and the General Nursing Council proceed to organise semi-trained nurses for the sick, the balance sheet of this dangerous method of administration should be most carefully defined and separated from the accounts of the highly qualified Registered Nurses.

No male profession would submit to this reprehensible method of administration, and we hope before long that Registered Nurses will have the courage to demand justice in the financial administration of the General Nursing Council and the Ministry of Health.

### The Assistant Nurses Committee.

Elected by the General Nursing Council:—

Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E.  
Miss C. H. Alexander.  
Miss F. M. Campbell.  
H. M. C. Macaulay, Esq., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., K.H.P.  
Miss E. C. Pearce.  
Dame Kathrine Watt, D.B.E., R.R.C.

Appointed by the Minister of Health:—

W. Ball, Esq.  
Mrs. Henry Brooke.  
Miss R. Dreyer.  
Mrs. W. L. Ford.  
Miss L. Snowden.

Many a one hath stumbled dangerously at a wicked man's prosperity; and some have fallen desperately into that sin which they have seen thrive in others hands. Those carnal hearts know no other proof of good or evil but present events; esteeming those causes holy and just which are crowned with outward success.—BISHOP HALL (1647)

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