

and the existing management committee will cease to function.

"It is clearly more in keeping with British tradition if voluntary hospitals are allowed to retain their management, appoint their own staff and manage their own finances."

The statement adds that this is particularly necessary in the case of the Roman Catholic hospitals, where nurses are often members of a religious community.

The Cardinal emphasises that "in view of the present shortage of nurses, this is of first-rate importance to the country."

On May 14th, a start was made with the National Health Service Bill, and since the Government want to have this back in the Commons early in July, it seems probable that the Committee will have to sit three days a week either before or after Whitsun. The Bill's second reading in the Lords will very likely not take place until after the summer recess.

A STATE MEDICAL SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA.

The Federal Government of Australia has decided to proceed with the establishment of a national Medical service, in spite of the opposition from the Medical profession. The service would be available at no cost throughout Australia and no means test.

This means the nation pays through taxation, and the Medical profession, on an independent basis, will be squeezed out of practice as they will be in Great Britain if the Bevan Bill becomes law.

"WE ARE THE MASTERS"

As our stepfather, the late Mr. George Storer, of Thoroton Hall, Notts., was M.P. for South Notts for many years, we were brought up in a political atmosphere, so naturally we eagerly read debates in the Commons, and in the past when the Irish made politics lively there was plain speaking, wit and laughter, not to mention a free fight on the floor of the House, for as questioned by Mrs. Kildare Treacy: "How can you expect the clever Irish to be governed by the stupid English?"

Indeed, reading debates in the House of Commons to-day is a weary task which has indeed evaporated, and apparently members have not the courage to fling a retort across the House when treated with ignominy.

What British M.P. in the last century would have sat dull and dolorous when Sir H. Shawcross, Attorney General, flung at the House: "We are the masters at the moment (loud Ministerial cheers), and not only for the moment but for a very long time to come."

With what emphasis, had we been an M.P., we should have risen and flung at him "Not my master," and taken the consequences.

And that reminds us that it is high time Registered Nurses had their own professional representatives in the House. But where are the women of courage whose policy would be justice for the expert, and not official expediency?

OUR THANKS ARE DUE.

Our very sincere thanks are due to Mr. H. N. Linstead, M.P. for Putney, for continuing his protest in Parliament against Christian Science Nurses being recognised by Parliament to care for the sick, as they are not trained and refuse to work under medical direction.

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 April 26th. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

H. N. Linstead, Esq., M.P., had informed the General Nursing Council that no agreement had been reached in connection with the clause dealing with Christian Science Nurses in the Nurses Act, but hoped the matter might be brought again before Parliament.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sums of £1,600 for weekly salaries, £550 for postage, £70 for insurance stamps, £30 for receipt stamps, £20 for petty cash, and £10 for Inspector of Training Schools expenses were allowed.

Estimates for stationery were accepted of £122 19s. 7d.; for Assistant Nurses Certificates £529 19s. 4d.; £806 9s. 1d. for other stationery; and £16 for 5,000 copies of Syllabus of Training for Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed to inform the Minister of Health that his proposal that a fee not exceeding £3 3s. be charged for the Sister Tutors' Certificate of Registration be approved.

Registration.

It was reported that reciprocity between the General Nursing Council for England and Wales and the Medical Council of Southern Rhodesia had been amended and approved.

It was agreed that 20 nurses be approved for registration by examination, and 27 by reciprocity.

It was agreed that 394 nurses who have hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wish their names re-included in the Register, be re-included.

Education and Examination.

It was agreed that arrangements be made for a conference between the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the General Nursing Council for Scotland, and the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council to be held in London in June.

It was agreed that eight Hospitals be provisionally approved as Training Schools for Male Nurses for a period of two years.

Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the names of 665 applicants be entered in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

It was agreed that the names of Mary Bridget Cunningham, S.R.N. 125043, and Johannah McCarthy, S.R.N. 125047, be removed from the Register of Nurses.

It was agreed that the cases of Winnie Cunnane, S.R.N. 109761, and Ivy May Nott, R.F.N. 14921, deferred from Council on April 27th, 1945, be dismissed.

The Council then went *in camera* to consider correspondence between the Minister of Health and the Matron-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, regarding members of the Service who have been prisoners of War, and were unable to apply for admission to the List of Nurses.

Also to consider proposals relating to the establishment of a post-registration part of the Register for Orthopaedic Nurses, Short Intensive Courses for Nursing Orderlies.

Also to consider the cases of two Registered Nurses.

The Council received a Report *in camera* of discussions which have taken place with representatives of the Royal

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)