

It was hoped that a conference between the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the General Nursing Council for Scotland, and the Joint Nurses and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland would be held in London on July 3rd.

It was reported that representatives of the General Nursing Council and of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association would meet at the Ministry of Health on June 18th.

Correspondence.

It was reported by the Ministry of Health that the Nurses Bill for Northern Ireland was to be considered by Parliament; it is identical with the Nurses Act, 1943. Correspondence was reported with the Sub-Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Birmingham University, concerning the examination for Sister Tutors.

It was with great pleasure that the Council welcomed Miss G. E. Davies, the Registrar, back to her duties after her recent serious illness.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £2,000 for weekly salaries, £250 for postage, £100 for Insurance Stamps and £20 for petty cash were allowed.

The Reserve Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended, March 31st, 1945, was submitted to the Council.

Mr. Walton, Chairman of the Finance Committee, pointed out that although the Accounts showed a balance of £1,163 9s. 4d. of Income over Expenditure, it must be remembered that no Register of Nurses was printed during the year, the cost of which would have been about £4,000.

The thanks of the Council were expressed to Miss Davies and the Accounts Department for the way in which the accounts had been kept.

Registration.

On the recommendation of the Registration Committee it was agreed that those Rules relating to the conditions of admission of Existing and Intermediate Nurses to the Register of Nurses, which are at present incorporated in the Rules and Schedules to the Rules framed by the Council under the Nurses Registration Act, 1919, shall be omitted from the text of the complete set of draft Rules shortly to be submitted to the Minister of Health for approval, relevant extracts being included at the end of these Rules together with an explanatory note.

Applications from 46 applicants for approval for Registration were agreed.

It was agreed that the names of 113 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 the Committee had met representatives of the Royal College of Nursing to discuss the Memorandum on Vocational Guidance and Selection Tests for the Nursing Profession drawn up by the College.

Approval of Hospitals as Training Schools were agreed.

Assistant Nurses.

A letter was considered from the Minister of Health in regard to a proposed extension of one year during which persons may be admitted to the Roll as Intermediate Assistant Nurses. A reply was agreed.

A letter was considered from the Minister of Health enclosing a Parliamentary question in regard to the enrolment fee payable by Intermediate Assistant Nurses, and reply agreed.

It was agreed that the amended revised Course of

Instruction (Curriculum) for Assistant Nurses be approved for use as a guide in the training of Pupil Assistant Nurses, and that this take the place of the Course of Instruction approved by Council in June, 1944.

Institutions were approved as Complete Training Schools for Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the names of 850 applicants be approved for enrolment in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the names of 46 Assistant Nurses, who had failed to pay their retention fee, be removed from the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

The case of James Edward Farrell, S.R.N. 133, was before the Council, having been imprisoned for theft of articles from the belongings of a dead man. The case was considered *in camera*, and the Registrar instructed to remove his name from the Register of Nurses.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for June 28th.

CURRICULUM FOR ASSISTANT NURSES.

We have received from the General Nursing Council for England and Wales a copy of the approved Course of Instruction for Assistant Nurses, occupying 14 foolscap pages of closely spaced typing.

On studying these pages we can only deplore the fact that instruction for these young women—training to become Assistant Nurses—is not taken a step further to prepare them for State Registration.

It seems grossly unfair to us that a girl who can assimilate so much instruction is doomed to occupy an inferior position in the career she has chosen as her life's work.

If the Teaching Schools could revert to a three years' course of training, to prepare their candidates to become State Registered Nurses and not a mixture of nurse and medical student, we are of opinion that an inferior class of nurse would never have materialised.

NURSING POLITICS.

WAKE UP REGISTERED NURSES.

What has happened to thousands of Registered Nurses apparently paralysed concerning their professional affairs that, possessing the responsibility of Parliamentary enfranchisement, they do not know the names and addresses of their Member of Parliament, nor appreciate the slippery slope down which they are being propelled by the advocates of the cheaper grade—the Assistant Nurse?

Not so the partly taught worker, who has apparently a keen sense of personal advancement, to judge from the Report of the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Assistant Nurses, held at Birmingham Infirmary, followed by an open meeting at Birmingham Accident Hospital.

To quote the *Public Assistance Journal* :—

" Dame Catherine Watt, Principal Nursing Officer to the Ministry of Health, although unable to attend, sent a message to the meeting saying how very much she appreciated the work being done by Assistant Nurses.

The Association is tackling the question of salaries for all Assistant Nurses and Pupil Assistant Nurses, which must be considerably increased. It is also dealing with the matter of their status, not only in hospitals for the chronic sick, but in general hospitals.

It was decided to approach the General Nursing Council, pointing out the distress caused by the slowness of enrolment, and asking if this could not be expedited. A letter was read from the Registrar asking the Association for its opinion regarding the letters to be used after the names of

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