

## THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL OF 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.1, on July 26th. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

### Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

The Chairman reported that the Minister of Health had approved the amendment to the rules extending the period by one year in which Intermediate Assistant Nurses can apply for admission to the Roll.

### Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £12,000 for examiners' claims, £4,600 for weekly salaries, £1,280 for postage, £170 for insurance stamps, and £50 for petty cash were allowed.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the advice of the banker had been sought, and he had recommended that £7,740 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan be sold, and the proceeds re-invested in the purchase of 3½ per cent. War Stock. This was agreed.

### Registration.

There had been 27 applications for registration, and all were approved.

It was agreed that 49 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 a visit had been paid by a member of Council to the University of Birmingham for the purpose of inspecting the examinations of the Sister Tutor's Diploma of the University of Birmingham, and the one year's course of instruction was approved.

It was agreed that if the same facilities were extended for inspection at the University of Manchester, the Sister Tutor's Certificate of that University might be approved.

Training Schools for Male Nurses were approved, and continuation of approval of hospitals as training schools granted.

Pre-Nursing courses were approved.

It was reported that at the June Examinations of the Council 1,770 candidates had passed Part I and Part II of the Preliminary Examination; 1,026 candidates had passed Part I only; and 551 candidates had passed Part II only. The following candidates had passed the Final Examinations: 2,574 General nurses, 31 Male nurses, 72 Mental nurses, 4 nurses for Mental Defectives, 137 Sick Children's nurses, and 296 Fever nurses.

### Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the Minister of Health be now asked to extend the term of office of the Assistant Nurse Committee by a further period of one year to May 31st, 1948.

It was reported that the Committee view with concern, and draw attention to the present position in the Assistant Nurses' Department concerning the shortage of staff, and consequent arrears of work in connection with applications to the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Applications for approval of hospitals as training schools for assistant nurses were received from the Public Health Department, Cardiff; the County Borough of West Ham; the Cornwall County Council; the Medical Services' Division, Ministry of Pensions; the Public Health Department, Stoke-on-Trent; and the London County Council.

It was agreed that 819 applicants be approved for enrolment, and their names entered in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the names of 6 Assistant Nurses, who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Roll should be re-included.

### Disciplinary Case.

The case of Hilda Betty Sutherland, S.R.N., 129,576, was considered. She had unlawfully obtained drugs to the value of 7s., from the General Hospital, Loughborough.

She had been bound over in the sum of £10 in her own cognizance, if she placed herself under the control of a suitable person.

The Council considered her case *in camera* and agreed to postpone their judgment on the facts proved against her. The period of postponement to be one year from the date on which her case came before the Courts—*i.e.*, until May 1, 1947—during which time Miss Sutherland will be required to place herself under medical care.

### Restoration of Names to the Register.

It was agreed that the names of Ethel Mildred Hiscock, S.R.N. 50265, and Jeanne McDougal, S.R.N. 114558, be restored to the General Part of the State Register.

### Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for September 27th.

### RETENTION FEES.

The attention of all Registered Nurses is drawn to the Nurses' Regulations of 1945, published by the Minister of Health under the Nurses Act of 1943, which restrict the use of the title "Nurse" to persons whose names appear on the Register of Nurses, the List of Nurses, the Roll of Assistant Nurses, and to certain other categories specifically named in the Regulations. In their own interests, therefore, nurses should ensure that their registration is up-to-date.

Retention fee notices are now being sent out by the General Nursing Council (beginning with the early letters of the alphabet) and the posting will be completed by the end of August. It is hoped that Nurses will send their fees immediately on receipt of the notices, as, with the large number of nurses now on the Register, it is not possible to issue all the receipts in the months of September and October. The fee is due before September 30th and, on account of the shortage of staff and of paper, it is important that a second reminder notice should not be necessary.

Any changes of *permanent* address not already sent in should be notified. In all correspondence, Registered Nurses are asked please to give their full names and quote their registration numbers.

### 393,000 BLOOD GIFTS LAST YEAR.

The Ministry of Health states that there were over 400,000 blood donors on panels in England and Wales last year (excluding the South-West Region, which was administered by the Army). The total number of blood donations was 393,677, of which 230,149 were taken by mobile teams. Many donors gave several donations during the year.

In addition to the many thousands of bottles of whole blood and plasma which went to the Fighting Services, and the large quantities used for civilian patients at home, about 4,000 bottles of dried plasma were sent to Holland after its liberation for the medical treatment of people suffering from the effects of starvation.

Blood transfusion is being used more widely in civilian hospitals than ever before, particularly for surgical and maternity cases. It is estimated that 350,000 blood donations will be needed during the present year, and more donors are to be recruited by means of local appeals.

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