

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH. REGIONAL HOSPITALS BOARDS.

The Minister of Health has now published an Order under the National Health Act setting up the new Regional Hospitals Boards. These Boards will at once begin the preparatory work which will be necessary to bring the new service into operation next year, on or after July 5th, 1948.

Many different Hospital Organisations, the Universities, with Medical Schools, professional bodies, local authorities and the industries, have been consulted by the Minister, in order to include various shades of opinion. There are from 22 to 32 members to each Board, which are composed of doctors, dentists, members of Hospital Governing Bodies and local authorities, trade unionists and others. There is only one Registered Nurse to each board, except in the Birmingham area, where a male nurse is also included. In the Oxford Regional Area we cannot find the name of even one Registered Nurse.

This inclusion of Registered Nurses in so small a minority is significant of the regard in which the Nursing Profession is held as a whole. No wonder educated girls look elsewhere for their life's career. If Registered Nurses were more articulate in the conduct of the affairs of the sick public, they could not be so lightly passed over, particularly as they have to do the nursing and the hospitals cannot carry on without their services. There are some nurses with brilliant minds and intellects who would be most useful on such committees. Perhaps it is true, after all, that men resent clever women and are afraid of their tenacity and strong purpose!

The Boards are to enjoy a great deal of freedom in the exercise of their duties, perhaps even more than was at first anticipated, which is all to the good. There seems to be a chance for a complete revolution in matters pertaining to hospital management, which no thinking person will deny is long overdue. We sincerely wish the new Boards all success in their new undertakings and we hope the sick public will really benefit by the change, as it seems that there is now a real possibility of sick people from all classes of the community enjoying the best Medical and Nursing care.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES.

**City Hospital, Belfast.** Miss Elizabeth McRoberts, S.R.N., has been appointed Lady Superintendent of Nurses. She was trained at the North Middlesex County Hospital, London, N., and has held the position of Matron at the Samaritan Hospital, Belfast.

### MATRONS.

**Municipal General Hospital, St. Luke's, Bradford.**—Miss O. E. Copeland, S.R.N., S.C.M., D.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at St. Giles Hospital, Camberwell, London, where she was later Staff Nurse. Miss Copeland has also been Ward Sister and Assistant Sister Tutor at the Memorial Hospital, Ludhiana, N. India; Night Sister at the Yarmouth General Hospital; Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor at the Samaritan Hospital, London; and First Assistant Matron at the General Hospital, Sheffield.

## 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 June 27th, 1947.

### Finance

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sum of £2,000 for weekly salaries, £1,070 for postage, £150 for Insurance Stamps, and £30 for Petty Cash allowed.

Estimate to the value of £1,224 3s. 6d. for stationery were agreed.

### Registration

A letter from the Executive Secretary, Registered Nurses' Association of British Columbia, was considered, regarding the reciprocal agreement with the General Nursing Council. After some discussion, the matter was referred back to the Education and Examination Committee.

Applications for approval for Registration were: General Register, by reciprocity 35; Supplementary part of the Register for Nurses for Mental Diseases, by reciprocity 4; for Sick Children's Nurses, by reciprocity 1; for Fever Nurses, by reciprocity 6, by examination 11; total, 57.

It was agreed that 138 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names re-included in the Register, should be re-included.

It was reported that the Official Register and List of Approved Training Schools for 1946, from the Registered Nurses Association of the Province of Quebec; and the List of Registered General Midwifery and Mental Nurses for 1947 from the Nurses Registration Board, Tasmania, had been received.

### Education and Examination

It was agreed that the authorities of training schools be informed that the emergency arrangements approved by the Council in May, 1939, for the training of nurses in hospitals taking part in the Emergency Medical Service Scheme, shall cease and conditions of training in such hospitals shall revert to those approved by the Council before that date (taking into consideration any alteration in such conditions apart from the emergency arrangements which the Council may since have approved) unless special application is made to the Council by the hospital authorities for the continued approval of such arrangements in respect of individual hospitals.

Approval of various hospitals as complete training schools was withdrawn. Approval and provisional approval to certain hospitals was granted; Pre-nursing courses recommended by the Board of Education were approved.

### General Purposes

It was agreed to purchase equipment to the value of £3,032 12s. 11d. in connection with increase of Student Nurses, Registration Department, and Assistant Nurses Department.

### Assistant Nurses

It was agreed that the names of 1,156 applicants whose applications have been found to be in order, be entered on the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the names of 641 Assistant Nurses be removed from the Roll, having failed to pay retention fees.

### Disciplinary Cases

It was agreed that the case concerning Winifred Rose Broodbank, S.R.N. 62397 be dismissed with a caution.

It was agreed that the name of Jonah Stoker, S.R.N. 517, R.M.N. 8472, be removed from the Register of Nurses.

The case of Annie Rigby, S.R.N. 45531, was considered, and it was agreed to reinclude her name in the General Part of the Register.

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