

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 23rd. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

Business Arising out of the Minutes.

The Minister of Health has notified the Council that he takes no exception to a Supplement to the Register being published for 1948 in place of the full Register.

Correspondence.

A letter was read from Miss M. Houghton resigning from the Council upon being appointed Education Officer.

This caused a vacancy in the Council, and members were asked to submit names of nurses of the same interests.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £1,900 for Salaries, £11,000 for Examiners' Claims, £500 for Postage, and £15 for Petty Cash were allowed.

Registration.

Applicants for approval for Registration were: General Register by reciprocity, 50; Supplementary Part of the Register for Nurses for Mental Diseases by reciprocity, 1; for Nurses for Mental Defectives by reciprocity, 1; for Sick Children's Nurses by reciprocity, 1; for Fever Nurses by reciprocity, 5; by Examination 8. Total 66.

It was agreed that 241 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their retention fee, and now wished their names included in the Register, should be reincluded.

It was agreed that 29 Nurses be granted Certificates of Registration as Sister Tutors.

It was agreed that 339 applicants, holding the Royal Medico-Psychological Association Certificate, whose applications have been found to be in order, be approved for Registration, and their names be entered in the appropriate part of the Register.

It was reported that copies of the Madras Nurses and Midwives Register for 1946, and the Register of Nurses (December 1947) of the Medical Council of Southern Rhodesia, have been received.

Education and Examination.

It was agreed that the Royal College of Nursing be permitted to send a further two representatives, making four in all, to the Conference on the Test Examination held on April 30th, 1948.

Approval was granted to Hospitals as Training Schools, and Pre-Nursing Courses approved.

Assistant Nurses.

It was reported that the first volume of the Roll of Assistant Nurses had been received from the printers, it contains the names of 29,908 Assistant Nurses enrolled up to April 30th, 1947. Appendix A contains the names of 46 Assistant Nurses removed from the Roll 1945-46 owing to non-payment of yearly Retention Fee. Appendix B contains the names of 687 Assistant Nurses removed from the Roll 1946-47 owing to non-payment of yearly Retention Fee.

The names of 413 applicants, whose applications have been found to be in order, were entered in the Roll of Assistant Nurses.

Disciplinary Cases.

The name of Lilian Doreen Aberg, S.R.N. 98116, was removed from the Register of Nurses.

The case of Winifred Hunt, S.R.N. 145335 was dismissed with a caution.

THE GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND.

The monthly meeting of the General Nursing Council for Scotland was held at 5, Darnaway Street, Edinburgh, on April 23rd, 1948.

RECIPROCAL REGISTRATION.—Following correspondence with the Registered Nurses' Association of British Columbia, Canada, the existing Agreement for Registration by Reciprocity was terminated.

Education, Examination and Registration.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION REGISTRATION.—The names of 147 Nurses holding the R.M.P.A. Certificate were added to the Mental Part of the Register; and 10 to the Mental Defective Part of the Register. Registration by Reciprocity was granted to five Nurses.

Finance.

The Report of the Finance Committee was submitted and approved and the Accounts passed for payment.

OF YOUR CHARITY HELP THE DEAF

Nurses often meet deaf people, as patients or patients' friends, but very few can know the strain it is for the deaf or hard of hearing to understand what is going on around them.

With illness, the hard of hearing become more deaf; they try to hear, and the strain makes them very tired, often ten minutes of trying to understand will be all they can do, longer than that the mind refuses to work, and you think of the old saying, "None so deaf as those that won't hear"; but it is not that they will not hear, it is they cannot, they are tired out. It is said that one in every six persons in Britain has some defect in hearing.

Nurses can help these afflicted ones considerably, and, when speaking to a deaf or hard of hearing patient, always stand or sit so that the light is on your face; some deaf people can see what you are saying, but many are not good at lip reading. All can hear or understand better if they can see the speaker's face. The speaker must help by watching the patient's face; she will then see by her or his expression if she is being understood.

Speak slowly and distinctly, "the low soft voice" is of no use to the hard of hearing, though may be a success with the quite deaf; do not shout, give every word its full value; do not link words together, and do not use more words than you must.

A very great man listened to a very clever man giving his evidence, using grand unusual words. When he had finished, the great man said: "Now will you please give us small change for that?" That is what you need in speaking to the deaf or hard of hearing—"small change," and do not drop your voice at the end of a sentence.

The National Institute for the Deaf, 105, Gower Street, W.C.1, exists solely to help the deaf; it is not a trading body, makes no profit, does no buying or selling. The British Association for the Hard of Hearing is trying to help the hard of hearing all over the country. They hold lip-reading classes, mime classes, picnics, even dances; anything to bring them together and help them to forget their isolation. As one of the very hard of hearing said to me, "It is jolly being here, everyone is so friendly, I don't feel I'm a nuisance." The Government is now helping. Under the new Health Act there will be a distribution of at least 50,000 free hearing aids; also a network of clinics for early diagnosis and treatment of deafness. Special schools and classes for hard of hearing children are to be extended.

M. H.

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