

## 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 25th. Miss D. M. Smith, Chairman, presided.

### Congratulations to Mr. Craddock.

Mr. F. A. W. Craddock, member of Council, was congratulated on receiving the award of M.B.E. in the recent Birthday Honours.

### Welcome to Miss M. E. Fish.

Miss M. E. Fish was welcomed to the Council upon taking her seat for the first time; she replaced Miss M. Houghton, who was recently appointed Education Officer to the Council.

### Vacancy on the Council.

Three nominations were received for a seat on the Council, owing to the death of Miss G. V. L. Hillyers. An election took place, and Miss M. Smyth, Matron, St. Thomas's Hospital, London, was elected.

### Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sum of £2,500 for weekly salaries and inspectors' expenses, £500 for postage, and £20 for petty cash were allowed.

It was agreed to increase the insurance on the contents of 17 and 23, Portland Place from £41,318 to £54,000 at an increased annual premium of £29 4s. 2d.

### Registration.

Applications for approval for Registration totalled 50, 42 by reciprocity and eight by examination.

It was agreed that the names of 112 nurses who have hitherto failed to pay their retention fee and now wish their names re-included in the Register should be re-included.

It was agreed that six Certificates for Registration as Sister Tutors be granted to applicants.

It was agreed that 460 applicants holding the Certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and whose applications have been found to be in order, be approved for Registration, and their names entered in the appropriate part of the Register.

### Education and Examination.

After correspondence with the Minister of Health concerning a reduced period of training to another part of the Register for Nurses admitted to the Mental or Mental Defectives Parts of the Register by virtue of the holding of the Certificate of the R.M.P.A., it was agreed that it was impossible to accede to the suggestion put forward in that letter, as the reduced period of training to which nurses admitted to the Mental or Mental Defectives Part of the Register by virtue of holding the Certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association are entitled could only date from December 5th, 1947, the date on which that particular Rule was sealed by the Minister. It was pointed out that in order that applicants should not be penalised by unavoidable delay in the office in dealing with applications, a nurse holding the Certificate of the R.M.P.A. is allowed to count a reduced period of training from the date of the receipt of application for registration on the understanding that if found to be ineligible for admission to the Register for Mental Nurses she completes the full period of training for admission to any other part of the Register.

A letter was reported from the Ministry of Health, enclosing copy of a letter from the National Association of State Enrolled Assistant Nurses, requesting a further reduction in the period of training for State Enrolled

Assistant Nurses in training for admission to the Register, was reported to the meeting of Council on April 23rd, 1948, and was referred to the Education and Examination and the Assistant Nurses Committees for consideration.

The Education and Examination Committee considered this letter at its meeting on May 12th, and agreed that the experience and training which Assistant Nurses receive does not entitle them to more than six months' remission of training for admission to the Register and that no new information had been produced to justify an alteration in the Council's decision in this matter. The Assistant Nurses Committee, at its meeting on June 4th, agreed that consideration could not be given at the present time to any further reduction in training, but should be deferred until one year after the first examination for Assistant Nurses had been held.

### General Purposes.

It was agreed that a room on the top floor of 17, Portland Place be made available to the Society of Registered Male Nurses at an annual rental of £100, inclusive of rates, lighting and heating, but exclusive of telephone rental and calls.

### Assistant Nurses.

It was agreed that the names of 400 applicants be entered in the Roll of Assistant Nurses; the names of 1,736 Assistant Nurses were removed from the Roll, and four names were re-included in the Roll.

### Restoration of Names to the Register.

The names of Mrs. Winifred Annie Bright (formerly Thompson) and Miss Johannah McCarthy were restored to the Register.

### Next Meeting of the Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for July 23rd.

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales desire to draw attention to the fact that consideration has recently been given to the desirability of amending the Rules prescribing the qualifications of Sister Tutors drawn up by the Council under the Nurses Act, 1943, in respect of that relating to the conditions of entry to approved Sister Tutor Courses. The existing Rule reads as follows:—

"The Council shall grant a Certificate of Registration as a Sister Tutor (hereinafter referred to as "the Council's Certificate") in the form set out in the Third Schedule to these Rules to any person who makes application in writing to the Registrar and satisfies the following requirements:—

(a) (i) The applicant must be registered on the General Part of the Register or on the part for Registered Male Nurses general trained;

(ii) The applicant must have undergone at least four years' experience in nursing since registration, on any part of the Register, including at least two years' experience as Sister in charge of a Ward in an Approved Training School. Provided that until a date to be announced by the Council with the approval of the Minister, three years' experience in nursing including one year's experience in charge of a Ward as aforesaid, shall be deemed to be sufficient.

(iii) The applicant must have completed a whole-time Sister Tutor course of two years' duration in an Institution approved by the Council in that behalf. Provided that until a date to be announced by the Council with the approval of the Minister a course of one year's duration shall be deemed to be sufficient;

(iv) The applicant must hold a Sister Tutor certificate granted by a University approved by the Council in that behalf."

In view of the particular difficulties at present pertaining

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