

## The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A MEETING of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at 23, Portland Place, London, W. on February 25th, 1949.

### Finance.

It was agreed that bills and claims submitted for payment be approved, and the sums of £2,500 for weekly salaries and inspectors' expenses, and £500 for postage be allowed.

It was recommended that fees for examiners for marking scripts should be increased from £2 to £2.10s. per 100 scripts for every answer required.

### Education and Examination.

The Committee recommended that Hospital Management Committees be informed that the Council is anxious that all schemes of affiliated training covering a period of four years shall cease as soon as possible and that Hospitals at present approved as Affiliated Training Schools shall be included in schemes of training of 3 years' duration, if possible within their own Hospital Groups or, if this is not possible, in liaison with another Hospital Group.

The following recommendation was also considered: That Hospital Management Committees be informed that the Council is anxious that entry to training for admission to the part of the Register for Fever Nurses shall cease as soon as possible and that the experience available in Fever Hospitals shall be included in schemes of general training; that they be asked to submit proposals for the inclusion in such schemes of the Hospitals in their groups which are recognised as Training Schools for Fever Nurses, together with information with regard to the number of student nurses at present in training for admission to the Fever part of the Register and the number accepted for the future. In the meantime that provisional approval of all Hospitals recognised as Training Schools for Fever Nurses be continued.

### General Purposes.

It was agreed that the Inspectors of Training Schools be required to wear State Registered uniform when on official duty for the Council and that an annual uniform allowance of £25 be granted to each of them for that purpose; and further that the wearing of State Registered uniform when on official duty for the Council shall be a requirement in respect of all future appointments of Inspectors of General and Mental Training Schools.

It was agreed that the Minister of Health be asked to approve the appointment of a Chief Committee and Drafting Clerk in the Registrar's Office at a scale of salary of £450, rising by annual increments of £20, to £550 per annum.

### Assistant Nurses.

It was reported that the 1948/49 Supplement to the Roll of Assistant Nurses has now been received from the printers. This Roll contains the names, qualifications and addresses of 7,887 Assistant Nurses enrolled under the Nurses Act, 1943 from May 1st, 1947 to April 30th, 1948, and 1,860 names deleted from the Roll since the publication of the 1947/48 edition.

### Chairmen of Committees.

*Finance:* Mr. S. W. Barnes.

*Registration:* Miss D. A. Lane.

*Education and Examination:* Miss H. Dey.

*Disciplinary and Penal Cases:* Miss L. G. Duff Grant.

*Mental Nursing:* Miss K. M. Willis.

*General Purposes:* Miss K. M. Willis.

## Training Allowances for Student Mental Nurses.

THE Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council recently agreed on new training allowances for student mental nurses employed in the National Health Service, which will have effect from September 1st, 1948.

The new allowances represent the application to student mental nurses of the principles on which the recent award to other student nurses was based. They are regarded as the basis on which true student status can be built up, bringing mental nurse training more closely into line with that for other professions. The responsibilities resting upon student mental nurses and the exacting nature of the work in mental institutions is recognised in the allowances payable to them.

Men and women will receive the same training allowances. Additional dependants' allowances will be paid to help those with family responsibilities.

For students recruited on or after January 1st, 1949, the first, second and third year allowances will be £230, £240 and £255 respectively. Students will also receive proficiency allowances of £20 and £30 respectively on the completion of the second and third years of training subject to their passing the appropriate examinations. Students who are resident in accommodation provided by the employing authority will pay £100 a year for board and lodging.

For existing female and resident male students, or such students recruited before January 1st, 1949, the allowances, with effect from September 1st, 1948, are £130 in the first year, £140 in the second year, and £155 in the third year, the emoluments being valued at £100. These students will also continue to receive proficiency allowances.

Uniform will continue to be provided and laundered without charge for all students. Non-resident students will also receive free meals on duty.

Where in exceptional cases existing salaries are higher than the new allowances, students will be entitled to retain them.

These scales represent an increase of £30, £40, and £50 per annum respectively on the previous basic rates for female students. The additional annual cost to the National Health Service will be in the neighbourhood of £65,000.

Particulars about the new allowances are being sent to hospital authorities as soon as possible, but it will necessarily be a little time before the arrears from September 1st are calculated and the new rates put into full payment.

## Chaplains for Hospitals.

GIVING guidance on the appointment of chaplains to hospitals now part of the National Health Service, the Minister of Health, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, states: "In all hospitals, Committees and Boards should give special attention to providing for the spiritual needs of both patients and staff, and, in particular, should do everything possible so to arrange the hours of duty of nurses and other staff (and of students at teaching hospitals) as to enable them to attend the services of their own denomination."

Points made by the Minister are:—

Wherever possible a room should be set apart for use as a hospital chapel, and whatever accessories of worship are required by each denomination should be provided; and office accommodation should be provided for chaplains where possible.

Committees and Boards have been asked to appoint a chaplain—or chaplains from more than one denomination—for every hospital for which they are responsible, and these appointments are always to be made in consultation with the appropriate Church authorities. In some areas one whole-time chaplain may serve a number of hospitals; elsewhere a part-time chaplain for each hospital may be appointed.

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