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Editorial.

The Nurses' Bill.

The acute shortage of nurses with its serious consequences has actuated the Minister of Health to bring before Parliament the Nurses' Bill, which was given its First Reading in the House of Commons on April 12th.

In this Nurses' Bill, of which "the main object is to improve the Training of Nurses," it is decreed in the elaborate machinery thereof that the General Nursing Council for England and Wales shall be reconstituted as follows:—

The new General Nursing Council for England and Wales will consist of thirty-four members, of whom—

(a) Seventeen are to be elected by nurses,

(b) Twelve persons appointed by the Minister,

(c) Three persons appointed by the Minister of Education,

(d) Two persons appointed by the Privy Council, of whom one shall be appointed to represent Universities in England and Wales.

Of the elected members of the Council—

(a) fourteen, who shall be nurses registered in the general part of the register or the supplementary part of the register containing the names of male nurses, shall be elected by persons who, on the date of the election, are registered elsewhere than in the supplementary parts of the register containing the names of nurses trained in the nursing and care of persons suffering from mental diseases and the names of nurses trained in the nursing of sick children;

(b) two shall be registered mental nurses (of whom one shall be a man and the other a woman) elected by persons who, on the date of the election, are registered mental nurses; and

(c) one shall be a registered sick children's nurse elected by persons who, on the date of the election, are registered sick children's nurses.

Of the elected members, one will be drawn from each of the fourteen areas determined by the Minister.

Of the twelve members appointed by the Minister six will be Registered Nurses.

We quote some further clauses from the Bill for our readers, but recommend them to obtain a copy of the Bill.*

* To be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13a, Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2; 39, King Street, Manchester, 2; 2, Edmund Street, Birmingham, 3; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; Tower Lane, Bristol, 1; 80, Chichester Street, Belfast; or through any bookseller. Price 6d. net

STANDING NURSE-TRAINING COMMITTEES.

Constitution of Standing Nurse-Training Committees.

1. A standing nurse-training committee for a hospital area shall consist of such number of persons of each of the following classes as may be specified in the order constituting the committee, that is to say—

(a) persons appointed by the Regional Hospital Board for the area;

(b) persons appointed by Boards of Governors of teaching hospitals situated in the area;

(c) persons appointed by the Council;

(d) persons appointed by the Central Midwives Board;

(e) persons appointed by the Minister after consultation with the local health authorities in the area;

(f) persons appointed by the Minister after consultation with the local education authorities in the area; and

(g) persons appointed by the Minister after consultation with such universities as he thinks fit; and the said order may contain provisions with respect to the qualifications of members of the committee.

TRAINING OF NURSES UNDER THE STANDING NURSE-TRAINING COMMITTEES.

(1) The Minister may, after consulting the Council, by an order made with respect to any hospital area, constitute, in accordance with the Second Schedule to this Act, a committee (in this Act referred to as a "standing nurse-training committee") for that area.

(2) It shall be the duty of a standing nurse-training committee for a hospital area—

(a) to have constant regard, as respects persons engaged in the area in the training of nurses, to the methods employed by those persons of training nurses;

(b) to promote, with a view to securing the improvement of methods employed in the area of training nurses, research and investigation into matters relating to the training of nurses, and to render to the Council reports of the results of research and investigation promoted by the committee;

(c) to advise and assist—

(i) Hospital Management Committees appointed by the Regional Hospital Board for the area;

(ii) Boards of Governors of teaching hospitals situated in the area; and

(iii) any other authority or person engaged in the area in the training of nurses who makes a request in that behalf to the committee;

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)