

in the preparation and carrying out of schemes for the training of nurses in accordance with any requirements of the Council for the time being in force with respect to the training to be undergone by persons as a condition of their admission to the register or the roll; and

(d) to advise and, if requested by the Council so to do, to assist the Council in matters relating to the approval by the Council, for the purposes of the training rules, of institutions situated in the area.

(3) A standing nurse-training committee for a hospital area may, if authorised by the Council so to do, conduct on their behalf any examination prescribed by rules made by them under section three of the Act of 1919 or section two of the Act of 1943, or specified in a scheme adopted under the next following section.

EXPERIMENTAL TRAINING OF NURSES.

(1) If the Council are of opinion that it would be advantageous that a trial should be made of a scheme of training and examinations to be undergone and passed by persons as a condition of their admission to the register or, as the case may be, the roll, being training and examinations differing from the training and examinations for the time being required by rules made by the Council to be so undergone and passed, they may, with the approval of the Minister, by resolution adopt the scheme for such period as may be specified in the resolution and in relation to such institutions situated in such hospital area for which a standing nurse-training committee is constituted under this Act as may be so specified, being institutions appearing to the Council to be suitable for the purpose of carrying out the scheme therein.

(2) A scheme of training and examinations adopted by a resolution of the Council under this section shall provide that, during the period for which it is so adopted, persons who undergo to the satisfaction of the Council, in an institution specified in the resolution adopting the scheme, the training specified in the scheme and who pass the examinations so specified shall, notwithstanding anything in any rules made by the Council, be entitled on making an application in that behalf to be admitted to the register or, as the case may be, the roll, and may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions (including provisions for charging fees in respect of the undergoing of examinations specified in the scheme) as appear to the Council to be requisite or expedient for the purposes of the scheme.

(3) The period for which a scheme of training and examinations is adopted under this section may from time to time be extended by resolution of the Council for such period as may be specified in the resolution.

In our opinion these recommendations embody the entire disintegration of the One Portal Examination to the State Register, and thus the door is open, whereby the authority of examination may be handed over by the General Nursing Council to the Standing Nurse-Training Committees; this practice, we fear, may eventually render the General Nursing Council redundant.

Thus, the Nursing Profession may find that Hospitals, through the Standing Nurse-Training Committees will increasingly clamour to be their own examiners, and as the power of its central governing body will have been relinquished to others, the position of the Nursing Pro-

fession will revert to the epoch when training schools were a law unto themselves.

THE REGISTER OF NURSES.

(1) Copies of the register, the roll and the list shall be kept at the office of the Council and shall be open to the inspection of any person without charge during usual business hours.

(2) The Council shall cease to be under an obligation to publish the register, the roll and the list, but it shall be their duty to publish in relation to successive periods, in such manner as the Minister may direct, lists of persons who have been admitted to, removed from and restored to the register, the roll and the list respectively during those periods.

The first of such lists shall be published as soon as may be after the commencement of this Act and succeeding lists shall be published at intervals of not more than twelve months.

We would point out that in establishing the Register, the governing body of the Nursing Profession could contact annually all registered nurses. Alas, however, under the new Nurses' Bill, this vital necessity will be relaxed, as it will be left to the nurses themselves to notify the General Nursing Council of any change, which would result in a much less accurate Register, as nurses, being birds of passage, and members of a most engrossing profession, would probably fail to realise this duty.

The debate in the House of Lords on the Second Reading of the Nurses' Bill was moved by Lord Shepherd (Lord in Waiting) on Tuesday, May 3rd.

We think that, although the chaotic state of our nursing affairs at the present time is profoundly disquieting, all concerned will greatly appreciate the tribute paid in His Lordship's opening and gracious speech, when he said: "It could be claimed that we in Britain enjoyed a nursing service second to none in the world, but in spite of all that had been done we had not sufficient trained nurses."

Following Lord Shepherd, Lord Llewellyn, in welcoming the Bill, said that some nurses were a little anxious about the provision whereby the Register could now be taken away from them. He suggested that it should be made obligatory on the General Nursing Council to publish the Register once every five years—the year before the election of the nurses' representatives from the fourteen regions.

In thanking Lord Llewellyn for his support of our plea that the Register continues to be printed, published and placed on sale, we here further point out that in view of the recommendation in the new Bill that nurses from a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, shall, under certain conditions be entitled to be registered in this country, accentuates the great necessity of the published register, as this professional information of persons outside the United Kingdom is of paramount importance to employers of nurses.

It is incredible that the governing body of the Nursing Profession should consider that the many thousands of present and future registered nurses are not worthy of the "trouble and expense" required to maintain their established right, of nearly thirty years, to print, publish and place on sale the Register of Nurses. A. S. B.

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