

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, on May 27th. The Chairman, Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., presided.

The Council stood in silence to the memory of the late Sir Frederick Menzies, K.B.E., M.D., one time member of the Council, who died on May 14th.

The Chairman reported that a letter from the Minister of Health re Assistant Nurse Training would be considered *in camera*; also the amended Nurses' Bill now before Parliament.

The Council received, with regret, the resignation of Mr. F. Craddock, who has been appointed Chief Male Nurse at the Springfield Hospital, London, and finds it impossible to give sufficient attention to his duties on the General Nursing Council.

Nominations were invited to fill this vacancy.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sums of £2,600 for weekly salaries and Inspectors' expenses, and £500 for postage were allowed.

Registration.

It was agreed that after the introduction of the initial registration fee applicants for admission to the Register by examination may be required, at the discretion of the Council, to submit a satisfactory reference in view of the length of time which may elapse between the passing of the examination and application for admission to the Register, and that the Council's Solicitor be instructed to draft rules for submission to the Minister of Health for approval.

Education and Examination.

Conditions were agreed for student nurses having commenced training in Burma, now being obliged to leave that country owing to present conditions, to complete training in this country.

Approval of hospitals as Training Schools, and Pre-Nursing Courses were agreed.

General Purposes.

It was agreed that a Senior Inspector of Training Schools be appointed at a salary coming within the range of the existing salaries for Inspectors of Training Schools, to assist the Education Officer in her duties.

It was agreed that the wages of domestic staff be increased from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 9½d. per hour.

An estimate of £202 10s. was accepted for painting iron railings and balconies at 23, Portland Place.

It was agreed that £60 be spent on a Type E.9 I.C.C. letter opener.

Disciplinary Case.

The case of Maureen Johnstone, S.R.N., 156261, was considered and it was agreed that judgment be postponed for the period of one year.

Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next meeting of the Council was fixed for June 24th.

The National Blood Transfusion Service.

MANY hundreds of thousands of men and women volunteered to give their blood for civilian and military casualties during the war. Their magnificent response saved thousands of lives, and helped to establish a service which is proving of ever-increasing value in peace. As a result of discoveries during and since the war, there has been a great increase both in the number of cases treated by blood transfusion and in the amount of blood given to individual cases. Transfusion has become part of everyday medical treatment and because of this a steady expansion of the Service is necessary to keep ahead of the rising demands of hospitals.

The appeal to donors is confined to those between the ages of 18 and 65, and addressed with special urgency to the younger generation who alone can safeguard the future of the National Blood Transfusion Service. Transfusion has become part of everyday medical treatment, and the demands of the hospitals are rising every month.

The Need.

In 1944 there were 1,005,000 donors enrolled on the regional panels. The number dropped to 270,000 by the end of December, 1946. Since then there had been a growing appreciation of the fact that blood transfusion has an important rôle in peace, and there are now over 370,000 donors in England and Wales. This addition of 100,000 donors in two years has not, however, satisfied the increasing demands on the Service, which, in order to reduce calls on the individual donor to a minimum of one every six months, and to provide for the future expansion of the Service, has a "target" of another 200,000 donors—or nearly 600,000 donors in all.

The war-time growth of blood transfusion is continuing in peace time. More blood was used in hospitals in England and Wales in 1948 than in 1944—D-Day year. In 1948, 393,301 donations were made as compared with 294,556 in 1947—a rise of 100,000.

The impetus given by the war to medicine generally has led to a greatly extended knowledge of transfusion and a wide expansion of its use. Many doctors are now more aware of the value of transfusion for the treatment of accidents, hæmorrhage, burns, anæmia, childbirth and operations, to mention some of its many uses.

How the Service Operates.

In 1921 four members of the Camberwell Division of the County of London Branch of the British Red Cross Society volunteered to give blood which was urgently needed at King's College Hospital. From this donation grew the first blood transfusion service in the world. Now there is a National Blood Transfusion Service administered by the Regional Hospital Boards under the National Health Service, with 12 regions in England and Wales. Each region is centred on a university town—namely, at Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Cambridge, London (two regions), Oxford, Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. At each of these towns an organisation is maintained for collecting blood within the region. When an appeal is made in these areas donors attend "bleeding sessions," where each gives just under a pint of blood. The blood collected is placed in a refrigerator and taken to the regional blood transfusion laboratory for grouping and testing. The whole blood is either kept in the Regional Blood Bank, or issued to Area Blood Banks which are maintained at general hospitals in each county. Each of the principal hospitals holds a supply of

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