

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 June 24th. Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

It was reported that the Nurses (Scotland) Bill had been before the House of Lords, the provisions in the Bill being much the same as those for the nurses in England and Wales.

Vacancy on Council.

As there was only one nomination for the vacancy on the Council, caused by the resignation of Mr. Craddock, it was agreed that Mr. A. J. Sayer, S.R.N., be appointed a member of Council.

Finance.

Bills and claims submitted for payment were approved and the sum of £2,600 for Cash Account (Weekly Salaries and Inspectors' expenses) and £750 for postage were allowed.

It was agreed that the sum of £5,000 be allocated over the next five years for the internal and external repair and decoration of No. 23, Portland Place.

Registration.

It was reported that the Committee has considered correspondence with the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland on the changes proposed by the Council in the fees payable for registration by reciprocity after the introduction of the initial registration fee, and the draft reply was approved.

The following letter from the Minister of Health, suggesting that the Council should make arrangements to conduct an educational test for nurses wishing to apply for registration in British Columbia (referred by Council at its meeting on April 22nd, 1949), was considered.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

93261/6/6

8th April, 1949

MADAM,—I am directed by the Minister of Health to refer to the correspondence which has taken place regarding the cancellation by the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia of the reciprocal registration arrangements between the General Nursing Council and that Association.

Since the question was discussed by Mrs. B. A. Bennett, O.B.E., Principal Nursing Officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and the Registrar of the Association in the summer of last year, discussions have taken place with the Ministry of Education with a view to devising a method of evaluating British in the terms of British Columbian educational standards to permit of an immediate assessment of British Nurses. The Ministry of Education secured the enclosed* information from the Department of Education, Victoria, and it will be seen that the proposed evaluation must be abandoned.

In the circumstances, the possibility of evolving a test which could be taken in this country was explored. The National Council of Nurses were approached and have indicated that no machinery exists for carrying out a test examination and suggests that the General Nursing Council would be the most appropriate body. As it is understood

* Enclosure not circulated; contains detailed information regarding educational examinations in British Columbia which shows impossibility of comparing them with educational standards of this country.

that in the past one or two tests have been carried out by the General Nursing Council at the request of the Dominions, the Minister would be very glad if the necessary arrangements could be made so far as British Columbia is concerned. It is suggested that the Registered Nurses Association might be asked to prepare a test and to furnish specimen test papers for the Council's consideration. The Minister would be prepared to communicate with the Association if this course is preferred.

I am, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) FREDERICK BLISS.

Draft reply was agreed.

93261/6/6

SIR,—Your letter of the 8th April, 1949, suggesting that the General Nursing Council should make arrangements for conducting an educational test for the Registered Nurses in this country who wish to apply for registration in British Columbia, in order that the assessment of their educational standard there might be less difficult, has received the careful consideration of my Council.

In the first place I am asked to point out that the only examinations which the Council has carried out on behalf of H.M. Dominions in the past have been in three individual cases where, at the request of the Statutory Body of the Dominion in question, the Council arranged for nurses who had trained in the Dominions, but had come to this country before completing their Final Examinations, to complete the written part of the Examination of the Statutory Body concerned at the Council's Offices. The test which the Minister now suggests should be conducted by the Council is therefore not in any way comparable, since its purpose is solely to assess standards of general education. My Council considers that it should not undertake to conduct educational tests for nurses desiring to be registered by another Statutory Body particularly since the Council is not permitted at the present time to impose such a test as a condition of entry to its own examinations. I am asked to suggest that the Ministry of Education would be a more appropriate body than the Council to make the necessary arrangements for such tests.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

M. HENRY, Registrar.

Education and Examination.

It was reported that the Education and Examination Committee has considered the letter from the Minister of Health, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Joint Examination Board, British Orthopaedic Association and Central Council for the Care of Cripples, with regard to the Council's proposal to terminate affiliated training of four years duration, which was referred by Council on May 27th, 1949.

The Committee has agreed that, as an interim measure until the establishment of the comprehensive scheme of training, they will be willing to consider applications for approval of schemes of training of three years duration whereby student nurses may spend up to one of the three years in an Orthopaedic Hospital, each application being considered on its individual merits.

The Committee further considered the question of the inclusion of a section on the Introduction to Normal Psychology, in the Preliminary Examination Syllabus, and it was agreed that in the light of further information received and further discussions which have taken place, the recommendation which was approved by Council on April 22nd,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)