

### Disciplinary and Penal Cases Committee.

This Committee has continued to carry out its onerous duties of dealing in the first instance with all cases of misdemeanour or misconduct of a registered nurse reported to the Council. Under an amendment to the Rules in June, 1949, the power of the Council to find a *prima facie* case was transferred to this Committee; this change in procedure results in each case coming before Council once only, instead of twice as in the past, and the decision of the Council as to the disciplinary action to be taken against the nurse in question is therefore able to be made within a shorter period than had been possible before.

During the period of 5½ years the Council has removed from the Register the names of 34 nurses, has postponed judgment in 26 cases and has dismissed 13 cases. Sixteen applications for restoration have been dealt with and have been granted.

The number of persons prosecuted by the Council during this period for falsely claiming to be Registered Nurses is 35 and the number prosecuted under the 1943 Act for falsely claiming the title of "nurse" is three. Under the 1949 Act an oversight in the previous Act was rectified and provision made for the Council to prosecute persons falsely claiming to be on the List of Nurses.

The welfare of the Council's staff is constantly under review. A canteen was established in the basement of the new premises and was opened in July, 1947, but unfortunately has proved too costly to continue owing to the small numbers who patronise it, although its facilities were extended to the staff of neighbouring offices in the hope that it would prove more economical to run. It seems as though the serving of lunches must be discontinued though mid-morning and mid-afternoon tea will still be provided.

The number of staff has increased from 125 in January, 1945 to 199 at the present time and it is obvious that a further increase must be made to meet the additional work yet to be undertaken under the 1949 Act, but it is anticipated that as the work relating to the collection of retention fees comes to an end there will be a corresponding decrease in the number of staff required for that branch of the work.

The maximum retiring age of members of staff has recently been increased from 60 to 65, the last five years being subject to annual review.

In December, 1945, a printing machine was purchased and since its installation the Council's printing costs have been greatly reduced. Three accounting machines for writing receipts and cheques and at the same time providing records previously transferred by hand to ledgers have recently been installed, and two dictating machines have been purchased for the use of senior members of the staff; all are proving of great assistance to the speed and efficiency with which the work can be carried out.

### Uniform Committee.

The main work undertaken by this Committee has been the revision of the uniform for male and female Registered Nurses last revised in 1931. The new uniforms, based on designs of Norman Hartnell, were displayed at a Conference of interested bodies before being finally agreed upon. The new designs appear to have met with the general approval of the nursing profession, and the Council's Education Officer and Inspectors of Training Schools who are now required to wear the uniform when on the official duty of the Council (except during excessively hot weather) act as worthy ambassadors of its smartness.

### Conferences.

Two Conferences have been held with the General Nursing Council for Scotland and the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland, with whom the Council

continues to keep in close touch, and two other important Conferences have been held with interested bodies, the first relating to the various changes in procedure which it was proposed to include in the 1949 Act, such as the discontinuation of publishing the Register and Roll annually and the substitution of an initial registration or enrolment fee for the annual retention fees, and the second relating to the re-institution of the Test Examination.

This Statement may be considered as the closing chapter on the life of the Council as constituted under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919. The election recently conducted under the 1949 Act uncovered one or two difficulties in the interpretation of the Act which may result in amending legislation being brought in before the passage of another 30 years. But the Council which will take office on September 22nd, 1950, will have the task of carrying on the work handed over by this Council and of initiating the link with the Area Nurse Training Committees which are to be set up. That link will, it is hoped, prove to be of the greatest value to all those concerned with matters relating to nurse training, and the Council looks forward to its establishment. So far as has been possible this Council has endeavoured to leave its house in order for the new tenants. There are, however, three matters in particular of which it is anxious the new Council should be fully aware. Each has already been mentioned earlier in this Statement—one is the financial position which requires to be ceaselessly watched, another is the re-institution of the Test Examination and the third is the revised Syllabuses of Subjects for Examination over which the present Council has spent much time and which it is hoped will receive the early attention of the new Council.

The 17 elected members of the new Council are already named, and it is good to know that five members of the present Council will be returning as representatives of Registered Nurses; the 17 appointed members have yet to be announced but there are hopes that some of the present appointed members may be invited to serve on the new Council. A certain degree of continuity of membership is essential to the efficiency and value of the work of the Council and any member who returns in September will be assured of a warm welcome, as indeed will all new members of Council.

To those who will not be returning the Council will wish to record their warmest appreciation of the work undertaken by the individual members, some of whom will have completed many years service on the Council. And I would wish to take this opportunity of recording my personal thanks for the support and encouragement I have invariably received during the time that I have held the office of Chairman.

The good wishes of this Council go forward without reserve to the members of the new Council.

DOROTHY M. SMITH,  
Chairman of Council.  
July, 1950.

## Increased Prices for Nurses' Utility Uniforms.

THE BOARD OF TRADE have made a new Order providing increased prices for nurses' utility uniforms in cotton cloths to take account of recent increases in cotton cloth prices over a long period. The range of sizes and prices for nurses' cloaks has also been increased.

The price increases range from about 15 per cent. to 25 per cent.

Copies of the new Order, The Utility Apparel (Nurses' Uniforms) (Manufacture and Supply) Order, 1950, can be obtained from the sales office of H.M. Stationery Office.

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