

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, W.1, on May 24th, 1950.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £3,400 for weekly salaries and Inspectors' expenses, and £1,000 for postage were allowed.

Estimates for Election Stationery to the value of £429 9s. 7d. were agreed, and it was agreed to buy 22 more chairs at a cost of £44 0s. 6d.

Education and Examination.

Schemes of training were approved, and full approval was given to Hospitals as Training Schools for Male Nurses.

Mental Nursing.

Approval was given to hospitals as Training Schools for Nurses for Mental Diseases, for Nurses for Mental Defectives, both male and female.

Application for Restoration of Name to Register.

Mr. Herbert Hewitt Coleman, whose name had been removed from the Register of Nurses after serving a term of six months' imprisonment for larceny, has applied for the restoration of his name to the Register. The Council considered the application *in camera* and it was agreed that his name be restored to the Register.

Date of the Next Meeting of the Council.

The date of the next Meeting of the Council was fixed for Friday, June 23rd.

New Hope for the Rheumatic Sufferer.

THE BRITISH RHEUMATIC ASSOCIATION—a voluntary body working with the benevolent goodwill of the Minister of Health—has issued a fascinating booklet, setting forth an alluring proposal, whereby to improve the medical, social and economic position of the rheumatic sufferer.

It is pointed out that the need of beds for the immediate treatment for urgent cases as out-patients under the Health Service Act is so acute that the present delay of seven months to a year in sufferers receiving treatment is causing permanent damage to the individual.

The first steps towards the solution of this problem have now been taken by the British Rheumatic Association by forming a body financially independent of the association—The British Rheumatic Association Homes, Ltd., a registered housing society with charitable status.

It is proposed to acquire and equip St. Ann's, Buxton, Derbyshire, a building which forms part of the Regency Crescent. St. Ann's House when reconditioned will provide 60 amenity beds and 30 flatlets.

Amenity beds are designed for those in urgent need of treatment but who are unable to find immediate in-patient accommodation.

For those who in the early stages of treatment need assistance, trained help will be provided both at the home and for conveying patients to and from treatment. Meals will be served in a communal dining-room. Rooms with two beds and two dormitories with four to six beds, inclusive charges £2 2s. to £4 4s. a week.

Flatlets will consist of one bed-sitting room adjacent to or connected with the bathroom and toilet; all flatlets are

connected by lift with the communal dining-room. Residents unable to reach the dining-room in mobile chairs will be served in their flatlets.

While all flatlets will be furnished, for residents intending a long stay arrangements will be made for some of their own furniture to be added if desired.

Residence is limited to those suffering from rheumatic condition only. If other medical conditions arise, the patient must be transferred to hospital. Skilled assistance is available day and night. Inclusive charges £4 4s. to £6 6s. per week.

Statistics show that there are between two and three million sufferers from rheumatism in Great Britain and that the loss to industry is £25,000,000 per year, and that 60 per cent. of existing cases could be checked, cured or ameliorated if present knowledge were applied.

This great humanitarian movement is primarily for (a) the wage earner and salaried worker in urgent need of treatment who is unable to obtain a bed in a rheumatic hospital unit, and (b) the older disabled rheumatic men and women of limited means, whose relations need a holiday or who have no relations and need a permanent home.

This splendid conception calls for generous support towards the approximate cost—some £50,000—and we trust that those responsible will be rewarded by the realisation and unqualified success of this beneficent enterprise.

Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council.

THE JOINT Public Health and Midwives Standing Committee of the Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council has agreed with the Management Side on new salary scales for public health nurses and domiciliary nurses and midwives, in the light of the Industrial Court's recent award raising the salaries of non-resident district nurses with district training from a scale of £300-£405 to £340-£465. The grades covered by the new agreement include health and tuberculosis visitors, school nurses, and district nurses and midwives.

Details will not be available immediately, but the new scales take effect from February 1st, 1949.

The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Nurses' Prize-Giving Day.

ON 24TH MAY, 1950, Viscount Cunningham, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, visited the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, accompanied by Lady Cunningham and Mrs. Lewis Douglas, wife of the American Ambassador. In welcoming the visitors Professor R. W. Johnstone, C.B.E., Chairman of the Board of Management, referred to the presence of Mrs. Lewis Douglas, and said that 200 years ago three American students learned their medicine at the Infirmary and went back to their home country to found at Philadelphia the first great medical school in North America. After Lady Cunningham had presented Prizes to the Nurses, Lord Cunningham addressed the gathering of Nursing and Medical Staff and friends. He commended the work of the Nursing Staff, congratulated the prize-winners and besought the Student Nurses who were finishing their training to carry on in their future work the high traditions set by their predecessors.

The principal prize-winners were:—

Affleck Medal for "Distinction in Nursing": Miss A. Fotheringham.

Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh Nurses' League Prize for the best all-round previously trained Nurse: Miss M. W. Thomson.

"Annie Warren Gill" Memorial Prize for the Theory and Practice of Dietetics: Miss J. I. Wishart.

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