

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., on March 29th.

Miss D. M. Smith, O.B.E., Chairman, presided.

Congratulations to Miss C. H. Alexander.

Congratulations were offered to Miss Clare H. Alexander, Vice-Chairman of the General Nursing Council, and Matron of the London Hospital, Whitechapel, upon her approaching marriage to Sir John Mann. Miss Alexander thanked the Council for their good wishes, and said how much she had enjoyed her work for the Council during the past seven years.

Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

It was reported that the Order relating to the Area Nurse Training Committee would come into operation on March 31st.

It was reported that £25,000 had been invested on behalf of the Council.

Correspondence.

Amongst correspondence considered was a letter of resignation from the Council, of Miss Clare Alexander on her approaching marriage; her reason for this step being stated that she considered that someone should replace her "who is actively engaged in Hospital work, as one becomes out-of-date and unrealistic so quickly."

In accepting Miss Alexander's resignation with very real regret, the Chairman asked members of the Council to consider nominations to fill the vacancy thus caused, as Vice-Chairman, Chairman of the Education Committee, Chairman of the Assistant Nurses Committee, bearing in mind that the persons so nominated should have the same qualifications as the resigning member.

Finance.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sum of £6,950 for Cash Account, £1,000 for postage, and £1,000 for Examiners' Claims be allowed.

Education and Examination.

It was reported that the Committee has considered correspondence with the Senior Assistant to the Director, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, suggesting that in view of the fact that the two-year course (which is to replace the one-year course) for the Sister Tutor's Diploma will commence in 1951-52 it would be desirable to postpone the re-inspection of the Courses conducted under the aegis of the University at Battersea Polytechnic and the Royal College of Nursing until 1952-53, when both first and second years of the new two-year Course will be in operation, and that the re-inspection of the Course at King's College of Household and Social Science should be postponed until 1953-54.

Provisional approval was granted to hospitals as Complete Training Schools, and Pre-Nursing Courses recommended by the Ministry of Education were approved.

Disciplinary and Penal Cases.

The Council considered *in camera* a resolution moved by Mr. Diamond, with the Council's Solicitor in attendance, "That the Council's Solicitor be asked to advise as to whether there is any need to alter the wording of question B(2) of the Standing Orders for the guidance of Council when deliberating *in camera* on Penal Cases."

General Purposes.

It was reported that the Committee had considered further correspondence with the Ministry of Health in regard to the

salary of the Council's Accountant, and went *in camera* to draft a reply to the Minister.

Next Meeting of the Council.

It was arranged that the next Meeting of the Council be held on April 27th at 2 p.m.

Results of February, 1951, State Examinations.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION			
Parts I and II	..	2,095	
Part I only	..	215	
Part II only	..	419	
			2,729
FINAL EXAMINATION			
General	..	2,400	
Male	..	227	
Mental	..	167	
Mental Defective	..	36	
Sick Children	..	148	
Fever	..	76	
			3,054

Points from a Speech by the Minister of Health at Cardiff.

THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS which has been going up and down in the past ten years, is now definitely showing signs of falling. We already know that the 1950 figure will show an encouraging overall reduction. The number of deaths from tuberculosis is going down. These developments are due to the applications of medical knowledge and skill supported by our National Health Service. Mass radiography is discovering tuberculosis unsuspected by the patient. Early diagnosis and improved facilities for treatment are reducing the number of deaths.

In the years 1916-20 the average annual number of deaths from tuberculosis in England and Wales per million of the population was 1,440. In 1940 it was 670. In 1949 it fell to 450.

Since the start of the National Health Service 3,550 additional hospital beds have been made available in England and Wales for the treatment of tuberculosis. I hope that by the end of this year at least 2,000 more will be provided.

Tuberculosis has for a long time been a more deadly enemy in Wales than in England. Mr. Clement Davies in his famous report pointed out that whereas in 1916-20 the mortality from tuberculosis has been the same in Wales as in England—namely 1,440 per million of population—by 1936 the English figure had fallen to 680 and the Welsh only to 860. In 1949 the English figure was 415 and the Welsh 608. We must not relax in our war upon this scourge. We must attack it as our fathers attacked smallpox in the last century, or as we ourselves have been tackling diphtheria. In 1940 there were 303 deaths in Wales from diphtheria. In 1949 there was only one.

The figures for infant mortality and maternal mortality show a similar picture. Incidence is heavier in Wales than in England; but there has been a striking improvement recently. Between 1938 and 1945 the figure of infant mortality for England and Wales fell from 53 to 46 per 1,000 and in Wales from 57 to 55. In the years of peace and full employment from 1945 to 1949 while the England and Wales figure fell from 46 to 32 the Welsh figure fell equally fast—from 55 to 40. The maternal mortality rate has fallen in England and Wales from 2.70 to 0.82 and in Wales from 4.58 to 1.35. Though the difference between the countries leaves no room for complacency the rapid improvement is a cause for national satisfaction.

In one matter which concerns me closely Wales has taken

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