

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

MONDAY 19th MAY, 1969.

REPORT OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The Education Committee at its meeting of 24th March 1969 received the routine reports on wastage, examination results and recruitment.

Quote from Minutes:-

"Recruitment. Dr. Gault enquired as to the progress of the enquiry into nurse training and raised the question of standards and the conflict between work force and the required standard for acceptance of students, and asked how this affects recruitment figures. Dr. Gault and Mr. Gordon both stated that the medical profession was becoming concerned with the apparent shortage of nurses and the consequent closing of some wards. Mr. Gordon moved, Dr. Gault seconded that the School Committee of Management be advised that this Committee was greatly concerned-

1. At the shortage of student nurses reported by hospitals in this region.
2. At the delay in receiving the results of the enquiry into nursing and further details concerning the introduction of the proposed new curriculum for nurse training. This information is required by the Committee so that the hospitals associated with the Northern District School of Nursing can plan to overcome the present shortage of student nurses and make provision for future staffing requirements to meet the needs of the developing and expanding hospital services. The Committee of Management to be asked to write to the Minister of Health expressing the concern of the Committee as set out above. Copies to be sent to the Victorian Nursing Council, Hospitals and Charities Commission and to local Parliamentarians. Carried.

Miss Steel asked Miss Baker if she had had any success in recruiting married women to return to nursing. Miss Baker advised that she at present had a number doing a refresher course at the hospital."

As previously advised the Mildura Base Hospital is seeking a deputation to the Victorian Nursing Council to discuss the possibility of withdrawal from association with the Northern District School of Nursing. This move is apparently being made on the strength of the employment of a qualified male tutor who has sole charge of the teaching department, a clinical supervisor and a charge sister in each ward. The chairman of the Mildura Committee (Mr. Thompson) is keen on promoting the status of Mildura as a separate entity within the State of Victoria.

The Nursing Council advised some months ago that it would keep the School informed of any action taken in respect of Mildura Hospital but no further official word has been received at this time. All the Hospitals associated with the School of Nursing have been inspected by officers of the Council with a view to determining:-

- (a) Their suitability as training schools.
- (b) The adequacy of their staffing complement.
- (c) The adequacy of clinical experience.
- (d) The attitudes of the Administrative staffs and Committees of Management towards nurse education and in particular, the introduction of the proposed new curriculum of training.

It is hoped that the Council will advise the School and the Hospitals of the outcome of these visits but a final report cannot be expected within the next few months. Miss Menzies has verbally advised me that when all reports are to hand the requests from the respective Hospitals will be viewed in the light of the original plan and the Councils determination of policy for the development of suitable and adequate nurse training facilities. In the mean time we proceed with our usual routine and hope for the best.

Since the last meeting the School has been visited by various administrative officers from the Hospitals Commission of New South Wales as well as the Nurses Registration Board and staff of the University of New South Wales. These visits were primarily aimed at viewing the School in operation, securing information about its administrative pattern and the problems with which it has had to cope since its establishment in 1950. It is ironic that whilst Victoria is arguing the merits of Schools of Nursing the State of New South Wales is in the process of a complete reorganization of its hospitals and nursing services and under the auspices of the Minister of Health is seriously considering the introduction of Regional Schools of Nursing throughout New South Wales.

Alteration of Study Block Plan.

As a direct outcome of the visit of Miss G. Berger, Nursing Officer of the Victorian Nursing Council, the Education Committee will meet within the next few weeks to discuss the recommendation that the Preliminary Training School be increased by one week and that a full course of Anatomy and Physiology be taught in this period. In many ways this is educationally a retragrade step, but the concentration of the Council and many hospital officials on examination results will possibly force the School to return to the practice of teaching Anatomy and Physiology in the first months of training almost to the exclusion of all other subjects. This in effect will produce a much wider range of Anatomy and Physiology for testing in the pre-enrolment examination at fifth month of training.

It is pertinent to note that because the Northern District School of Nursing Final State Examination results were better than the State average, no comments or queries were raised about the Second and Third year programmes.

Miss Berger's chief interest was in the first year Anatomy and Physiology results. With the exception of increased commitment to Anatomy and Physiology early in training no major change in routine is planned until such time as the official report and recommendations are received from the Victorian Nursing Council. The whole situation will then be reviewed by the Education Committee.

N. W. LONG

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