NURSES' HOSTEL: STILL NO DECISION
Plea To Board

WHETHER the Pendragon Hotel at Southsea will be adopted as a nurses' home is not yet known, but the question has been discussed by the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board in committee.

When the Board met in London yesterday, Councillor S. R. Thorrowgood mentioned "Pendragon" on "matters arising out of the Minutes," and said that Portsmouth people "wanted to know."

It had been proposed and seconded that the Board should approach the Minister. That was in Part II of the Minutes marked 'Confidential,' but the matter was not confidential in Portsmouth. The Board was being criticized and he thought the best way was to let the people know where the Board stood.

KEYS HANDED OVER

The keys of Pendragon were handed over in the early part of September of last year to the Secretary of Portsmouth Hospitals Management Committee, and "we are not in yet," although the nurses were in need of accommodation, he said.

Councillor Thorrowgood asked that something should be done to expedite the matter to stop the scandal brought about by having an empty hotel on Southsea front.

"Well," rejoined the Chairman (Mr. F. H. Elliott), "you have had your say."

JUMPING THE QUEUE?

A special sub-committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee reported that officers of the Board had been asked to prepare a report showing the hospital position throughout the region in relation to population, and the schemes of development which should be undertaken in the region, as and when financial circumstances permitted.

The sub-committee reported that they concurred with the view of the London Area Committee that a new kitchen should be included in the scheme for the development of St. James' Hospital, Balham, and by Mr. D. A. J. Jackman asked if that was "jumping the queue."

The reply was that this scheme had been "in front of the queue" for a long time.

Councillor Thorrowgood asked if the report on schemes of development included Portsmouth, where beds were very short.

The Chairman: Are you attempting to jump the queue, Mr. Thorrowgood?

Councillor Thorrowgood: Is there a queue?

BEST OF BAD JOB

The Chairman asked if he had not heard of the financial stringency of the Board, that their capital expenditure had been severely cut, and that the Board was making the best of a bad job.

He added that Portsmouth would receive attention in the same way as other parts of the vast area that the Board had to administer.

Councillor Thorrowgood pointed out that Portsmouth hospitals had suffered bomb damage that other hospitals had escaped and there were ejaculations: "What about London?" and "What about Surrey?"

APPOINTMENTS

Medical Appointments approved by the Board included Dr. D. Chisholm as whole-time consultant radiologist to the Portsmouth Group; Dr. K. G. Bailey as whole-time psychiatrist at St. James's Hospital, Portsmouth; Dr. P. F. M. Macdonagh as part-time consultant anaesthetist to the Portsmouth Group; Dr. Phoebe Harvey as part-time consultant anaesthetist, and Dr. P. C. Conran as part-time assistant anaesthetist to the Isle of Wight Group.

Socialist Lists Urgent Points

Mr. A. H. Bailey (Labour candidate for St. Paul Ward) at an election meeting last night stressed several points which, he said, needed immediate attention by Portsmouth City Council.

The narrow strip of pavement at Fratton Bridge he described as a death trap, and also called for improvements to the road at the Somers Road-Bradford Road junction.

Bombed sites must be cleared up, he went on, and a community centre was vital to the Ward. If the centre at Twyford Avenue could be expanded, then one could be built in St. Paul Ward.

The centre was essential because "hanging about at street corners was half the cause of juvenile delinquency," and the good work done at schools was not continued.

Other urgent needs, said Mr. Bailey, were a health centre, traffic lights at Bradford Junction, and a public convenience in Elm Grove. Of building, Mr. Bailey said that the Labour Party was in favour of building houses for rent. If restrictions on building were lifted, people with plenty of money would immediately crowd out the people with less to spend, and very few houses would be built for rent.

TOO FEW BRICKLAYERS

Mr. Bailey contended that there were not enough bricklayers to build houses if everything else was wanted.

At the present time, he went on, Portsmouth had a loan account of £6,000,000 for houses.

"Do you think that if the City Council were allowed to spend it they would?" he asked.

Quoting from Ministry of Labour figures, Mr. Bailey said that most builders got as much profit out of one house as the total cost of labour for the building.

Supporting speakers were Mr. W. G. Edwards and Mr. G. A. Fabian. Mr. W. M. Durman was in the chair.

Juniors Go All Out

Junior boys' 100 yards, at Purbrook Park County High School sports. E.N. 8196.

Excellent's Trophies

H.M.S. EXCELLENT had a successful day's shooting in the Portsmouth Command Rifle and Revolver Meeting at Tipnor yesterday, carrying off two cups.

In the team event, run concurrently with the individual 200 yards snap shooting, they won the Purser Cup with 755 points, an average of 37.7 for each member. With an average of 33.7, H.M.S. Vengeance were second, and H.M.S. Zephyr, with 32.4, gained third place.

This win kept Excellent in a good position for the Ryder Cup, for the best aggregate in Part I, and they won this trophy with an average of 117.8 for three events. Daedalus were second with 107.3, and Vengeance (106.3) were third.

Other results were:—

Individual Snap (200 yards) —1, O Sea. Moulds (H.M.S. Zephyr), 49; 2, O Sea. Brissenden (H.M.S. Excellent), 48; 3, A.B. Gooch (H.M.S. Excellent), 48 (after tie-shoot).

Deliberate at 200, 500 and 600 yards. Open Class. 1, Lt.-Cmdr. Cradock Hastopp (Sussex R.N.V.R.), 101 points; 2, P.O. White (H.M.S. Excellent), 100; 3, C.P.O. Ramsay (H.M.S. Daedalus), 91. Class A. 1, E.A.3 Childs (H.M.S. Daedalus), 101 points; 2, C.P.O. Freeman (H.M.S. Siskin), 101; 3, Lt.-Cmdr. Pechon (H.M.S. Dryad), 100. Class B. 1, L.E.M. Kent (H.M.S. Peregrine), 89; 2, N.A. Trow (H.M.S. Siskin), 89; 3, A.B. Peyton (H.M.S. Excellent), 89. Class D. 1, 1st Officer Wrens Foster-Hall (H.M.S. Mercury), 97; 2, E.M.(A.) Marshall (H.M.S. Siskin), 94; 3, O.Sea. Brissenden (H.M.S. Excellent), 92.

Beat the Butts Competition, for the Tipnor Shield.—Daedalus A.

'Reclaim Land' Says Candidate

Councillor H. G. Cook, who is seeking re-election to the City Council as Conservative candidate for the Havelock Ward, last night urged the reclamation of 350 acres of mudland for playing fields.

He told his audience at St. Bartholomew's Hall, Southsea, that this was required so that every available piece of ground in Portsmouth could be built upon.

Playing fields may be an essential from an educational point of view, he added, but the people of Portsmouth could not afford to have them in the centre of the City.

The first aim was to build houses within the city and to rebuild the shopping centres. Then, to get the playing grounds he suggested reclaiming land at a rate of 50 acres a year. He mentioned Farlington marshes as being a suitable starting ground.

CURB ON SPENDING

In the 17 years that he had served on the Council, Councillor Cook said he had done everything in his power to keep down unnecessary expenditure. On the whole he thought that the City had managed its finances well, particularly following the destruction of the war years.

He went on: "In all the circumstances I do not feel that the Government has given the City the financial assistance it deserves to enable us to re-build."

Between 1945 and 1950, Plymouth, with 11,500 families on the waiting list, had built 6,000 permanent and temporary houses. Portsmouth with 13,000 on the list had built 5,000.

"Plymouth's allocation of houses next year is 1,432, Portsmouth's 300," he went on. "Why this distinction?"

"The Government way has been tried. Now I should like to see the builders given a free hand to see what they can do."

The supporting speakers were Aldermen J. E. Smith, R. J. Winnicott, Albert Johnson, Councillors T. Smith and G. J. Horton, and Lieut.-Colonel F. Russell.

Councillor Major W. H. Powell (Chairman of Portsmouth South Conservative Party) presided.

10,500 LOSE JOBS

Prohibition in Bombay has cost over 10,500 people their jobs.

Track League Cycling

Cycle racing in Portsmouth opened last night at Alexandra Park when the Portsmouth and Gosport Track League carried out their postponed fixture. The racing was keen and of tip-top variety.

Portsmouth Command Royal Naval C.C. opened the ball with a win in the one lap sprint. George Rigby and Johnny Hayles (Fareham W.) fought out a tremendous finish all the way down the straight, with victory going to Rigby in 45 4-5sec. Peter Gooding (Portsmouth W.) was 3rd, and D. Holloway (Southern Olympic) 4th.

W. Mugridge (Portsmouth C.C.) scored a narrow win over Peter Harris (Southern Olympic) in the junior quarter-mile, with Charlie Blandford (P.N.E.C.C.) 3rd, S. Woods (Chichester C.C.) 4th.

In the three-lap (one mile) Italian Pursuit, last year's champions, Portsmouth C.C. (Williams, Fleming, Mullaly), clocked 2min. 1 1-5sec.; Gosport C.C. (Strange, Pickett, Clayton), 2min. 4 1-5sec.; Fareham W. (Whaley, Hayles, Austin), 2min. 6sec.; Emsworth C.C. (Cole, M. Hoar, A. Hoar), 2min. 6 2-5sec.

Highlight of the evening's racing was the 1,000 metres Tandem final. Wally Errington-P. Mullaly were leading by a length at the straight with Johnny Hayles-L. Austin and G. Rigby-A. Wingrave close up. With 60 yards to go the Fareham pair made a last desperate effort to get by, and practically locked together the two pairs crossed the line, Portsmouth C.C. winning by half a wheel. The Navy were third and Southern Olympic (S. Cooke-D. Holloway) 4th.

Riding a faultless race Dave Fleming (Portsmouth C.C.) amassed 33pts. to win the 10-lap Point-to-Point from David Dowdell (Gosport C.C.), 21pts., Ron Barfoot (P.N.E.C.C.), 14pts.; Bern Whaley (Fareham W.), 6pts. Time, 7min. 51sec. (3 miles).

The additional events for non-league team riders showed that present team riders will have to look to their "laurels," for Vic Fowlett (Gosport C.C.) demonstrated early fitness by winning the 3-mile Devil take the Hindmost in 6min. 56 3-5sec. The 300 yards scratch, with six heats from 37 riders, produced some fast times and very spirited finishes. D. Wooden (Emsworth C.C.) won the final from A. March (Gosport), in 22 4-5sec.

Nellie Ludford (Fareham W.) rode a brilliant 5min. pursuit, overtaking the 4th and 3rd girls in the last half-minute of the race, to cover 1 mile 1,605 yards. K. Tapner (Chichester), 1 mile 1,587 yards, was second; Grace Clayton (Gosport C.C.), third, K. Mead (P.N.E.C.C.), 4th.

The final of the quarter-mile women's sprint placings were: 1, Maureen Hoar (Emsworth C.C.); 2, Nellie Ludford (Fareham W.); 3 J. Brand (P.N.E.C.C.); 4, D. Charley (Portsmouth C.C.). Time, 37sec. With points scored 4, 3, 2, 1 for first four in each final the league table is as follows:

	Ev	F	S	T	F	Pts
Portsmouth C.C.	7	4	—	1	1	17
Fareham Wheelers	7	1	3	1	1	16
Gosport C.C.	7	—	2	1	—	8
P.N.E.C.C.	7	1	—	1	1	7
R.C. Royal Naval C.C.	7	1	—	1	—	6
Emsworth C.C.	7	1	—	—	1	5
Southern Olympic C.C.	7	—	1	—	1	5
Chichester C.C.	7	—	1	—	1	4
Portsmouth Wheelers	7	—	—	1	—	2
Hants Road Club	7	—	—	—	—	0

SHIPS THAT PASS

Ships expected to pass Spithead to-morrow are: To Southampton: Capetown Castle (4.15 a.m.), Nieuw Amsterdam (4.30 a.m.), Empire Fowey (5.30 a.m.), Mauretania (12 p.m.). From Southampton: Nieuw Amsterdam (9.15 a.m.), Canton (6.30 p.m.).

PRESENTED TO KING

In our short biographies of the Labour councillors seeking re-election to Portsmouth City Council, the paragraph relating to Councillor S. R. Thorrowgood being presented to the King in H.M.S. Excellent was inadvertently misplaced under the biography of Councillor R. Mark in our Monday edition.

"Hampshire" Features

Pictures of the Petersfield Secondary School appear in the Petersfield edition of the Hampshire Telegraph this week.

In the Havant edition will be pictures of the various teams which participated in the Southdown Drama League Festival, the Gosport edition will contain a special article on the Blake Maternity Hospital and Council housing and finance, and in the Portsmouth edition there will be another illustrated article by Mr. E. W. Studley, the Portsmouth Parks Superintendent.

SISTERHOOD SPEAKER

Mr. Davies was the speaker at the Copnor Methodist Sisterhood, and Mrs. Wooller, accompanied by Mrs. Robbins, was the soloist. The choir sang an anthem, accompanied by Mrs. Stow.

PALACE PARTY

Two thousand guests were expected at Buckingham Palace to-day for the first presentation party of the year.

"Least Efficient" —And He Went

BRIGADIER TERENCE CLARKE (C., Portsmouth West) asked in the Commons yesterday why Mr. George Clasby, a welder, had been made redundant after 19 years' service, was told by Mr. W. J. Edwards, Civil Lord of the Admiralty), that Mr. Clasby had been employed by the Admiralty since 1932, but as a welder only since December, 1942.

A state of redundancy arose recently among the welders at the Portsmouth yard, and he was among those who, being least efficient, were selected for reversion to a lower grade with the option of discharge, by agreement between the Admiralty and the trade union.

Brig. Clarke said that after 19 years service, this man was one example—there were others—of men being given the option of reverting to a lower grade, being paid less, or going out. That was not the way private enterprise would treat them. (Labour laughter.)

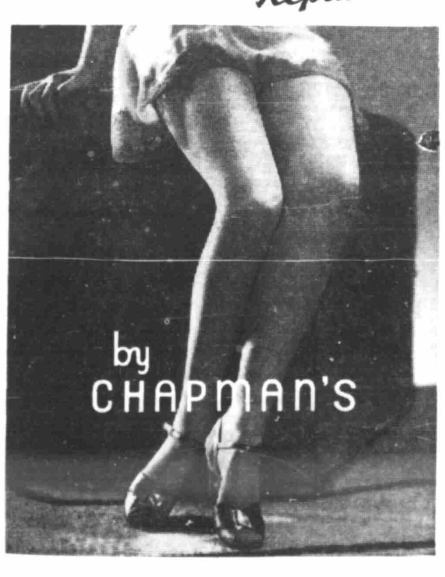
Mr. Edwards replied: "I do not know whether private enterprise ought to come into this, because I recall the day, in the industry in which I was employed, when people were paid off after four hours' work without getting a week's notice.

"This man has not been employed as a welder the whole of his time with us, and was classified as least efficient, and under the agreement with the trade union, he had to go."

Replying to further questions, Mr. Edwards said that when a state of redundancy arose, they had to look at a whole body of men, and decide who was the least efficient. They had not said that he was inefficient—only that he was among the least efficient.

Referring to Brigadier Clarke's question, Councillor G. J. Horton stated at a municipal election meeting in Portsmouth last evening that whatever the Government thought about a man whose alleged lack of efficiency they had taken 19 years to discover, a private enterprise firm thought sufficiently of him to give him a job at 23s. more a week on the day he left the Dockyard.

HOSIERY Repairs



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