

women and newly-born infants, she must have a practical acquaintance of domestic duties, and be able to do plain cooking for her patient, and, if necessary, for her husband and family, and she must be prepared to do the necessary washing for mother and child in cases of extreme poverty, and she must be provided with a change of linen and undergarments for both mother and child, whether they may be required or not, and in no case shall she accept fees, gratuities, or remuneration from the patient, or her husband, or any relative or friend. For salary of obstetric nurses, see schedule to clause 5. Obstetric nurses must be neatly and cleanly dressed, but need not necessarily wear costume, and their outfit must in all cases be supplied and determined by the administrative Authority under this Act. And the travelling expenses of both sick and obstetric nurses beyond a mile from their residence (which must be central) are in all cases to be defrayed, and in accordance with a scale to be fixed, by the administrative Authority. And, in addition to the direct and immediate supervision by the members of the medical staff, there must be a general supervision of the nurses by the secretaries of those authorities, who shall report neglect of duty and delinquencies to their governing Authority.

Schedule D. Clause 5. Sub-clauses *b* and *c*.

Practical illustration of the income and expenditure of a Voluntary Nursing Association employing a sick and obstetric nurse in a parish of 7000 inhabitants, with three resident doctors: Take average births at 180, and for comparative purposes divide these into three sixties, as follows:—

1st 60, wages 30s. to 40s. per week, to contribute 15s.
2nd 60, wages 20s. to 30s. per week, to contribute 10s.
3rd 60, wages 2cs. and under per week, to contribute 5s.

An honorarium of 5s. to be added to each of the above contributions, making doctor's fees 20s., 15s. and 10s. respectively, or an average of 15s. each.

| Cr. | | Cash Account. | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---------------|-------|------|
| Income from women's contributions | ... | ... | ... | £ 90 |
| Subscriptions, donations, etc. | ... | ... | ... | 180 |
| | | | Total | 270 |
| Dr. | | | | |
| Doctor's fees | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| Sick nurse | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Obstetric nurse | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Incidentals | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| | | | Total | 270 |

A "grant in aid" under this Act of £25 to the above credit account would enable a Voluntary Association adopting this Act to employ a "second

grade" sick nurse, and of £50 a "first grade" sick nurse. In order to encourage the adoption of this Act by the authorities named herein, and especially to encourage and facilitate the establishment of Voluntary Nursing Associations, "grants in aid" to be made conditional on the subscriptions and donations and the women's contributions attaining a fixed standard, which might be two-thirds at least of the required income, based on the birth-rate and financial capabilities of the parish or district. The medical fees scheduled herein are to be exclusive of mileage, as provided for in clause 8.

Schedule E to Clause 9.

The rules regulating the conduct and duties of sick and obstetric nurses shall be drawn up by a committee of the adopting Authority or Voluntary Association, and no rule shall be made in the absence of the members of the medical staff, and if no member of the medical staff be present, the committee must adjourn, and due notice be given to each member of committee, including the medical members, so that all, or as many as possible, may be present at the adjourned meeting. And the rules and regulations shall conform so far as possible to the local circumstances of the parish or district, and if any dispute arise in reference to the adoption of any proposed rule or regulation, and if any nurse or member of the medical staff feel aggrieved by the action of the managing committee, or by their rules and regulations, he or she may summon a general meeting of the subscribers by giving seven days' notice to the secretary, who must thereupon issue notices for the meeting to be held at the earliest possible date, and the decision of the meeting shall be final, always provided that in matters affecting the professional conduct of the medical staff, or any member of it, the appeal must be made to the General Medical Council."

No provision is made, we notice, for a nurse to have a right of appeal to a council of her own professional colleagues, but nurses will, we think, claim this as justice to themselves, and will not be satisfied with any legislation laid down on other lines.

We wonder what nurses will think of the sumptuary laws with regard to their clothing. This part of the Bill is, if we may be allowed the expression, the palpable handiwork of the "mere male." No woman would have ventured to lay down such arbitrary rules, and rules, moreover, which are as unpractical as they are arbitrary.

We think, also, Dr. McCook Weir will find that the number of nurses who will be willing to undertake the household washing of a lying-in woman would be very limited, and, lastly, many "first grade" nurses can at the present time command a salary of considerably more than £100 per annum, and these will naturally object to the amount of their income being determined by Act of Parliament instead of by the market value of their services.

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