

Colonial Nursing Association), and the Local Government Board, all employ numbers of trained nurses, and the pronouncement of the Board of Education in respect to the medical inspection of school children has resulted in an increase in the nurses employed under the London County Council, and in the employment of nurses for the first time by the Education Committees of many County Councils. The work of school nurses is in its infancy, and is likely to be greatly expanded within the next few years.

In connection with the nursing department at the War Office, several important events have taken place during the year.

1. It was notified that the Army Council had decided to form a Reserve of Nurses, and the regulations for admission to the Service were issued with Army Orders on August 1st. These provided for the maintenance of a Reserve of Nurses to supplement Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in the event of war. The Reserve is under the immediate control of the Nursing Board, of which her Majesty the Queen is President.

2. A Nursing Service for the general hospitals of the Territorial Force has been inaugurated, of which her Majesty the Queen is President. An Advisory Council has been established, the duty of which is to frame rules for the admission of nurses into the Service, and to make such recommendations as may be necessary for the administration of the Service and for the appointments of Matrons, Sisters, and nurses thereto. The Chairman of the Council is the Director General of the Army Medical Service, Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, and the members are the Duchess of Montrose, Vice-President, the Countess of Derby, the Countess of Jersey, Lady Grenfell, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, Miss E. S. Haldane, Miss Cox-Davies, Matron Royal Free Hospital; Miss Hamilton, Matron, St. Thomas's Hosp.; Miss Hughes, General Superintendent, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute; Miss McCall Anderson, Matron, St. George's Hospital; Miss Ray, Matron, King's College Hospital; Miss Vernet, Matron, Middlesex Hospital; and Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C. The liberal representation accorded on this council to the nursing profession by the Secretary of State for War will undoubtedly make for the efficiency of the service.

3. The regulations for Queen Alexandra's Military Service for India have been revised. Candidates for this Service must now be over 25 and under 32, and must satisfy the Nursing Board at the India Office, or persons in India

selected for the purpose, as to their general suitability in a personal interview.

The Colonial Nursing Association, of which Lord Ampthill is President, has now 200 nurses at work, an increase of 33 within the last year.

DISTRICT NURSING.

There is no branch of nursing work which is of more value than that of district nursing amongst the poor when carried on by fully-trained and certificated nurses, who have had special instruction in hygiene and social economics. The system of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, by which means the professional work of the Queen's Nurses in the employment of local committees is supervised and reported on, by an inspector appointed by the Institute is an excellent one, and has worked well throughout the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, as is the case with most branches of women's work, the Institute is hampered by want of funds for carrying on its work. There is moreover often a difficulty in raising locally the very moderate salary, and allowance for maintenance, on which the Institute insists in the case of its nurses, and there is, therefore, a danger lest the nursing of the sick poor in rural districts in England should fall increasing into the hands of midwives, with a very elementary knowledge of sick nursing. What is needed to avoid this danger is the education of the public in the real functions of the trained nurse amongst the poor, which would lead to a proper appreciation of her worth. The wisdom of providing a salary adequate to maintain such a nurse would then be apparent. To meet the necessities of the rural districts where it is most essential that the nurses should be thoroughly qualified, as they so often have to act in the absence of the doctor, on their own responsibility, it is very desirable that the Queen's Institute should have an endowment fund from which it could provide for the payment, or part payment, of nurses in districts which are too poor otherwise to maintain a nurse. This should be in addition to its present endowment fund which must be applied mainly to educational purposes.

PRIVATE NURSING.

The nursing of private patients is a very responsible branch of nursing work, and as greater demands are made by medical science upon the knowledge and skill of nurses becomes increasingly so. The private nurse is, moreover, left often to her own resources, at some distance from the doctor, in charge during his absence of most serious cases. No directions, however minute, can be given which can

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