

If the Government, or the Royal College of Nursing, imagine that after the sacrifice of the people to save the liberties of the world, they will be content to have their flesh and blood treated in pest houses by ignorant women not qualified to nurse the rich, let them realise, and that at once, that such a policy will not be tolerated for an hour, and let them also realise that a contingent of Registered Nurses are prepared to publicly expose any such lack of human duty upon their part.

"FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD."

Miss N. Dunkley, S.R.N., Chairman of the Guild of Nurses, had an excellent article—a call to public duty—in the recent *Quarterly Review* of the Guild, in which she asks members of the profession what they are doing about the suggested Register or Roll for semi-trained women. "Are you," she asks, "prepared to stand by and see the Nurses' Registration Acts rendered farcical?" And adds, "This is a very serious matter for State Registered Nurses, and for those still in training. If you want to retain your professional status, you must act now. The sick of our country must be protected by ensuring that all Registered Nurses receive an adequate and uniform training. However poor the sick may be they should be attended by skilled, well-trained nurses, not half-trained people . . . If you have written to the weekly Nursing Press in protest, and your letter has not been published, write to us so that we can combat this insidious danger.

These people wish to control the Nursing Profession; it is to their interest, not yours or that of your patients. Remember that, should such a calamity occur, the blame will rest on those who failed to protest against the suggested de-grading of the State Registered Nurse: "Faith without works is dead."

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND.

We are glad to note that King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has again been able to distribute the handsome sum of £302,000 amongst General Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, and for District Nursing in respect of out-patients referred to District Nursing Associations in 1940 in relief of out-patient departments. In these hard times the benefactions must be very welcome and encouraging to all those engaged in the administration of hospitals.

REPORT OF THE NURSING RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE.

The special department of the Fund dealing with the work of the Nursing Recruitment Committee is specially interesting to us, and the Report proves the great value of the work of the Recruitment Centre, which has grown steadily during the past year in the number of student-nurses it sends to the hospitals, and it is noteworthy that over 1,000 of the Centre's candidates have been accepted for training in the last 12 months, as against 210 in the first eight months of work. The total number of entrants required for all training schools in England and Wales was assessed at 12,000 per annum in 1939, when the only channel of recruitment was by direct application to training schools. The Centre was established, not to infringe on existing methods of recruitment, but to supplement them.

The Committee recognise, however, that a long-term policy is essential if a steady supply of candidates of the right type is to be ensured; and that the Recruitment

Centre must serve, not only as a link between the girl who wishes to train, and the most suitable hospital which will accept her for training, but also as a public relations department for nursing, to attract fresh interest in nursing as a career, and to stimulate recruitment by giving up-to-date information about the improved conditions and prospects now offered to nurses.

With this object, contact has been made and maintained with education authorities, careers advisory bureaux, etc. Talks on nursing as a career have been given in 45 schools during the year. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to members of the panel of speakers, who have kindly given four of these talks, and to the donor of a film, "Why Not Nursing?" for use in schools. Thanks to the co-operation of hospital Matrons, arrangements have been made for parties of schoolgirls and for representatives of the Press to visit hospitals and to see that the conditions in which nurses live and work in modern hospitals are very different from the impressions given in certain sections of the Press.

The London hospitals draw many of their nurses from the provinces, and, on the other hand, many girls who would normally train in London prefer to train elsewhere as a result of war conditions. It has been impossible, therefore, to carry on the recruitment service entirely on a local basis and to limit it to the hospitals in the Fund's area. Although no responsibility has been undertaken for recruitment to hospitals outside London, the proportion of the Centre's candidates accepted for training at these has risen steadily. In London the system of direct contact with each school, so as to be able to give up-to-date information as to the conditions of entry to each, and teaching facilities offered, has been found so effective in reducing "wastage," that arrangements have been made to include the provincial training schools in the same system (about 650, as against the 85 training schools in the Fund's area).

To this end the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust is proposing to co-operate with the King's Fund by contributing substantially towards the necessary increase of staff and contingent expenditure, and the Fund is inviting representatives of the Trust to serve on the Recruitment Committee. The Committee hope that the extension of the Nursing Recruitment Service to provincial training schools will widen its sphere of usefulness without affecting the steady growth of its services to the London voluntary hospitals, in whose interests it was first established.

We congratulate the Nursing Recruitment Committee on having secured the very expert services of Miss Muriel M. Edwards, S.R.N., as Secretary. So long as she is at the helm we feel sure this good work will continue to progress.

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK.

The chief value of the Recruitment Centre is the fact that its work is constructive and based on a definite standard of efficiency; there should therefore be no fear of degrading nursing standards by any policy of makeshift, which would be fatal to the safe economic professional status of the Registered Nurse.

It is much more difficult to ascend, as the struggle for half a century has demonstrated, than to slither down, bump, bump, to the gutter. The Recruitment Centre must keep faith with the candidates encouraged to train efficiently with the promise of definite professional advantages. We have every faith that the supply of student-nurses will then meet the demand.

The Civil Nursing Reserve.

So far 5,300 nursing auxiliaries have earned Red Stars for having worked in the Reserve for one year. Altogether there are about 19,000 Nursing Auxiliaries employed whole time and 17,000 part time in the C.N.R.

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