

consideration, I have formed the following conclusions, which may interest the reader:—

A Few Conclusions.

1. That those ladies responsible for trying out and wishing to make the Scheme permanent and wanting legal status for their trainees are inspired by high principles and placing the well being of the chronic sick before all others.

2. In my humble opinion legal recognition of semi-trained assistant nurses will serve no useful purpose, because *it will not provide skilled nursing for the sick poor*, which is of paramount importance.

3. The problem of finding sufficient nursing skill for the aged sick and for removing from such institutions to homes for old people (yet to be built) all those old folk not requiring nursing attention is so vast that it should not be allowed to wreck the peace of mind of a few high-principled pioneers, but should become the business of a Government Department and a Committee should be immediately set up to deal with it.

4. Some consideration might be given to a proposition put forward previously that the really *bedridden chronic* patients could be nursed in wards reserved for such cases in all general and public assistance hospitals throughout the land.

5. The worst of these institutions which are not fit for the reception and nursing of sick people because they are badly equipped and because no useful work is possible in them should be abolished; they are a blot on the Public Health Service.

6. It is not fair to young girls to take them and give them an inferior training and then condemn them to life work in such dreary surroundings amongst old people who are totally helpless—it is almost a life sentence!

7. Money should be spent to improve and upgrade the better institutions. Wards should be made as bright and pleasing as possible; uniform for patients should be abolished and gay colours introduced. Comfortable, easy chairs and stretchers should be provided so that patients may sit in comfort in the gardens in the summer. Buses could be provided to take those patients who are not bedridden into the towns or villages for change of scene. Libraries could be installed and cosy reading rooms. New "Papworth" Village Settlements should be encouraged; they would give a new lease of life and happiness to many old and lonely people.

8. Conditions for the nursing staffs must be greatly improved, as such nursing must be depressing and exacting to a degree. Not only must salaries be improved, but hours of leisure and recreation adjusted, and living accommodation and conditions receive much attention.

The lack of nursing skill for the chronic sick has become a national disgrace and menace, and the vicious circle which has been created must be reformed and finally wiped out. There must be no wholesale and everlasting sacrifice of extreme youth in the service of old age, but the nation as a whole must take an active part in securing a peaceful twilight and evening to British lives which have been spent in the service of their country.

A sincere vote of thanks to Miss Hardy was proposed by the President, unanimously adopted, to be forwarded to her.

In the discussion which followed, the opinion was expressed that the institution of two grades of nurses under the authority of one governing body, the General

Nursing Council, would inevitably discourage educated women from entering the Nursing Profession, and result in grave injury, both to the Nurse-Training Schools and the sick; and could not fail to depreciate the economic stability of the Nursing Profession.

It was agreed to communicate with the General Nursing Council on the matter, and to forward for its consideration the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION.

"That a letter be sent to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, asking it to define its policy concerning the proposed legal Registration of semi-trained Assistant Nurses, the Roll to be controlled by the Council."

The Ministry of Health and the Chronic Sick.

Further, it was agreed to communicate with the Minister of Health concerning the urgent need for the reorganisation of isolated institutions for the nursing of the Chronic Sick controlled by Public Authorities.

Removal from the Register of Nurses.

The removal of the names from the Register of Nurses was considered, as great difficulty has been experienced by many nurses serving both at home and abroad during the war in communicating with the General Nursing Council; it was agreed that this matter should receive further consideration, as removal resulted in serious disability and damage to nurses whose names were eliminated, and during the war it was thought further consideration might be exercised by the General Nursing Council.

The meeting then terminated.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council will be held at 19, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, on Wednesday, February 18th, at 2.30 p.m.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Position of Nursing under Women's Call-up.

Questions have been asked about the position of nursing in relation to the call-up of women under the National Service Act, as Nursing is not included in the list of "options" from which women are asked to choose.

The reason is that volunteers for Nursing are put in a special position in much the same way as men volunteering as pilots or observers in the R.A.F. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and National Service wish it to be known that all women who come under the National Service Act, or the Registration for Employment Order, may choose Nursing at any stage before they actually receive their notice to report for duty. They may apply at any Employment Exchange, at the local hospital, or to the Medical Officer of Health in the nearest County Town or County Borough, or they can write to the Nursing Division of the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, giving the number of their National Registration Identity card.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The annual Queen Charlotte's Hospital birthday ball for the debutantes, with the cake ceremony, in aid of the hospital's free maternity care of Service men's wives, takes place on March 14, and is now fully subscribed. There are still tickets available at 10s. 6d. for the *thé dansant* on Saturday, March 21. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, 339a, Goldhawk Road, W.6.

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