

subjects, and Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene, between the ages of 16 and 19, and pass the examination in these subjects before starting their training, in fact I think that if this scheme were generally adopted the need for Preliminary Training Schools would cease to exist.

This brings me down to the present time and surely in the light of past history now is the time to take stock, to make a plunge and radically overhaul and overthrow the existing ties that are impeding progress, which in my opinion can only be solved as I have been repeating *ad nauseam* all these years, namely that:—

1. Hospitals should be entirely staffed by Trained Registered Nurses, and that they only be required to do Nursing duties and should be paid generously, not by the present recently revised rates which are far too low for the workers. I particularly refer to Sisters.

2. Student Nurses should really be Student Nurses and not be members of the Nursing Staff and be given no payments for the privilege of Training them. I, however, always hold that no woman should be without pocket money even as a student, so that this should be provided if necessary, and an Educational Grant should be forthcoming for their Training, also Faculties of Nursing should be established at Universities and University Colleges or failing these at Technical Colleges.

3. There should be a revision and redrafting of the Curriculum, that the subjects taught are essentially fundamental for the proper understanding of Nursing technique in all its aspects and only a minimum amount of theory, bearing the above proviso in mind, should be taught for the purposes of Registration.

4. After Registration is the time for refinements and specialisation, so that unless a registered nurse intends to remain a Staff Nurse, her fourth year should be spent in specialisation, making herself proficient in the Department she intends to specialise in and then be declared by recommendation or even examination to be efficient in that speciality and have conferred on her an additional qualification appended to her Registration entry.

5. Abolish all supplementary Registers and Rolls.

6. Midwifery should be one of the specialities that could be chosen, and that is why I think that the C.M.B. is redundant as an independent entity and that it should be merged or affiliated with the G.N.C., and the same remark applies to the R.M.P.A., so far as the Registration of Mental Nurses is concerned.

There are of course many details that I am not able to deal with in such an article as this, but am only able to outline the general principles desirable to put the Nursing Profession on a proper footing, comparable to that of other professions.

History might even repeat itself in that Nursing might once again become a Vocational choice with prospects of good conditions, financial possibilities and one giving much personal satisfaction to those following it.

There is still another point I should like to deduce from this brief history, the undesirability of forming classes and grades in any Profession. I refer to:—

Two classes of Probationers as they existed 50 years ago.

Two grades of Midwives—Part I and Part II.

Two grades of Nurses, Registered and Enrolled.

Although outside the scope of this paper I understand that there is an attempt to register two kinds of medical men—Registered General Practitioners and Registered Specialists—a most undesirable step and unnecessary, seeing that all medical men can have additional qualifications added to their original Registration in the Register, so why not also the speciality which they choose to adopt.

## THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES, LTD.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., will be held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Thursday, January 24th, 1946.

The Council will have under consideration the organisation of memorials to the late Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the College, and of Miss Margaret Breay, whose life was devoted to the national and international organisation of the Nursing Profession.

Both these devoted organisers of the highest standards of nursing were interested in its international status, and it is anticipated that scholarships may be available for award in time for the International Congress in New York in 1947.

### GIFTS TO THE COLLEGE.

A few days ago a parcel arrived at 19, Queen's Gate from a generous Fellow of the College, Miss Rosalind Stow, F.B.C.N., of North Adelaide, South Australia, containing very-welcome gifts of a supply of white sugar, dried fruits and almonds, for which her colleagues, on short commons in England, are sincerely grateful in these days of dock strikes.

Miss E. M. Hawkins, Detroit, U.S.A., had sent a generous gift of tea and candies, and Miss May Ashton, from Perth, Australia, a large plum cake and raisins, both of which gifts were most welcome and would be greatly enjoyed. Thanks had been conveyed to these generous Fellows.

### KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to send an annual subscription of £1,000 for 1946 to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

King Edward's Hospital Fund has received a further instalment of £125,000 from the Nuffield Trust for the Special Areas. It will be recalled that in founding this Trust Lord Nuffield provided that any sums that might be available by way of repayment of loans or otherwise from his Trust for the Special Areas should pass to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

A total sum of £500,000 has now been received, the first £250,000 of which was, at Lord Nuffield's request, allocated to Guy's Hospital.

### ALEXANDRA DAY.

At a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Alexandra Day Fund held recently at the Mansion House, over which the Lord Mayor presided, Mrs. Leslie Morshead, the organiser and secretary, reported that Alexandra Day was once again a great success, the collection being over £174,000.

In the Metropolitan Area £61,411 was collected. Expenses, including cost of roses, etc., £4,214, amounted to £6,212, leaving a balance of £55,198 to be distributed to hospitals and kindred charities for the sick.

Our most gracious Duchess of Kent is the moving spirit of this very popular fund.

### APPOINTMENTS.

#### Matron.

**Baldover Institution for Treatment and Education of Defectives, Dundee.**—Miss Mary E. Stewart, R.G.N., R.M.N., F.B.C.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Dumfries, and at the Crichton Royal Dumfries Mental Hospital, and has been Assistant Matron at the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital; Matron at Wyke House, Isleworth; and has served for over three years in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.

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