

fact which the nursing profession can neither evade nor ignore. On the other hand it is only reasonable to assume that those who adjust their lives to evening and night schedules should be compensated for so doing. The plight of the hospitals is desperate. The public is growing critical of the quality of nursing service. It can no longer be put off by some reference to the war. The situation calls for group thinking, based on the index of the cost of living and other objective data, by co-operative agencies such as local nursing councils or the local hospital and nursing associations.

#### "MORE ABOUT THE JOURNAL."

"The *Journal's* new dress reminds us of a newly capped student. Checked by a sobering thought in the midst of her jubilation on her promotion and the becomingness of the cap, she remarked, 'My goodness, it's important to have something in my head that makes it worth putting the cap on it.' Now that you can see the changes of which we told you in November, we do hope you find them pleasing and that ease of reading more than compensates for any necessary adjustment of reading habits and of library shelves.

"We who edit the *Journal* for you know that nursing is an essential service. We have faith in its future because we know its past and know the goal of better health for all people is a shining beacon leading the profession on. We believe professional organisations provide an indispensable means for achieving the social aims of the profession and for promoting the personal welfare and professional development of nurses.

"The professional practice of superior nursing is of major interest in relation to editorial planning this year. There is need for clinical experts in every field of nursing whether it be private duty, staff, teaching, or public health nursing. We are on the lookout for specialists, nurses as expert as one of whom an observer said, 'You would be unbearably proud to see the skill displayed in that mountain cabin.'

"This is a biennial year. Nurses who wish to have a voice in planning the future of their profession (and who does not?) should make sure they are members in good standing of the A.N.A., and perhaps also of one of the special interest organisations. Reports of organisational activities are, of course, an important feature of the *Journal's* service every year.

"We often wish we could share more of our correspondence with *Journal* readers. We are aware that this is a period of confusion and even disillusionment for many nurses. But there is a new and buoyant note in some of it; for example, a 'seasoned trouper' wrote that the Southern Division meeting in Oklahoma City was one of the best she ever attended. The conservative executive secretary of a Mid-west association writes:

"I wish you had been an onlooker at our state meeting. The dramatic presentation of committee reports, the very receptive delegates and their wise discussion, and the final vote to increase the dues to meet our expanded programme made it one of the most thrilling experiences of my long professional career.'

"This is one of the reasons we editors stick to our jobs; we have a stake in the achievements (and the anxieties) of so very many nurses. It is fascinating to watch American nursing grow."

#### TIME FLIES.

The wonderful prospect of holding the Quadrennial Meeting of the International Council of Nurses in New York in May next year, will arouse the energy of our leading professional women in this country, and they should encourage, by every means in their power, the attendance of all British nurses who can possibly enjoy what will, no doubt, be a wonderful assembly of nurses from many parts of the world.

### PROFESSIONAL NURSING JOURNALS HONOUR MISS ANNIE WARBURTON GOODRICH ON HER 80th BIRTHDAY.

Those nurses throughout the world interested in the International Council of Nurses will remember that Miss Annie Warburton Goodrich was elected President at the Cologne Congress, in 1912, and would have presided in the United States of America had not the first Great War broken throughout the world, and the Congress cancelled, since which time Miss Goodrich has continued to take a personal interest in the progress of the I.C.N. and its work.

#### MISS GOODRICH CELEBRATES HER 80th BIRTHDAY.

Miss Goodrich celebrated her 80th birthday on Tuesday, February 26th, as the Guest of Honour of the *American Journal of Nursing* at a Luncheon in New York.

The following cable has been sent from the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING with every affectionate good wish:—

"Accept from your British colleagues the warmest greetings of affection and admiration for your lifelong work for the elevation of the Profession of Nursing, whereby the sick in the United States of America and throughout the world have received such signal benefit."

### NOTICE TO EX-MEMBERS OF THE ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

#### TESTIMONIALS AND REFERENCES.

It is possible that ex-members of the Army Nursing Services may wish to acquire a testimonial from a P. Matron or Matron under whom they have served whilst in military service, or they may require to give her name as a reference when seeking a post in civilian life.

Anyone wishing to do so, but unaware of the P. Matron's or Matron's present whereabouts, should proceed as follows:—

Enclose the request in an envelope on which is given the full name, initials, and if possible the P. number of the P. Matron or Matron for whom it is intended, but leaving the address blank. This should then be enclosed in another envelope addressed to the Matron-in-Chief, A.M.D.4, War Office, 38, Hyde Park Gate, London, S.W.7. The top left-hand corner of the outer envelope should be clearly marked "Testimonial." Any such letter will be forwarded to the officer for whom it is intended.

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