

the first for eight years. There were present at the meeting delegates from Belgium, U.S.A., France, Poland, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. Miss Kaeckenbeeck, of the Belgian Red Cross, presided.

Important questions concerning the training of Nurses and Voluntary Aids by the Red Cross were discussed. An afternoon was devoted to the discussion of questions concerning the Foundation. The Advisory Committee recommended that the autonomy of the Foundation be maintained; that Nurses have a preponderant part in its direction and organisation; and that its educational policy be broadened, and facilities for post-graduated education in other countries be used for students of the Foundation.

On her return from Geneva Mrs. Carter accompanied Miss Kaeckenbeeck, Director of the Nursing Department of the Belgian Red Cross to Bruxelles, where she was the guest of Mademoiselle Mechelynck, Directress of Nursing of the hospital St. Pierre. At a luncheon, given by Monsieur Dronart, Director of the Belgian Red Cross, she had the opportunity to meet the members of the N.F.N.M. Committee of Belgium.

During her visit the Belgian Red Cross honoured Mrs. Carter by bestowing upon her the Belgian Red Cross Gold Medal (1st class).

#### National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain.

This Committee has recently been reformed and is made up of representatives of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain (affiliated to the I.C.N.) and the British Red Cross Society. The first meeting of the Committee will be held shortly.

#### National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of New Zealand.

Mrs. Donner, Hon. Secretary, has resigned, and Miss E. S. Brown has been appointed to succeed her.

This Committee has raised a further scholarship amounting to £300. This is the third scholarship which has been raised by the New Zealand Committee, two of £500 each previously having been made available for nurses from Greece and China.

#### National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Sweden.

The Foundation has been requested by the Swedish Committee to advise with regard to plans for two Swedish Nurses to study in the U.S.A. and Canada.

#### Miss Bridges' Appointment.

Miss Bridges who, for the month of January, kindly assisted the Chairman at Headquarters, has been appointed by the Ministry of Health to do some special work for the Ministry which will occupy her full time for six or eight months. She will continue to represent the Foundation on the Advisory Committee for the Diploma Courses of the University of London and will therefore be in close touch with the educational work of the Foundation. We wish her every success in the new work which she has undertaken.

#### Donations to the Endowment Fund.

The Irish Matrons' Association ...	£10	10	0
Anonymous Donor ...	5	0	0

#### Publications.

The pamphlet on the history and the work of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation has been brought up to date in roneodraft form and can be obtained from Headquarters.

#### Visitors.

The following have visited Headquarters:—

Miss Schwarzenberg (I.C.N.); Miss Looker (Australia); Miss Madariaja (Spain); Miss Evelyn Walker (U.S.A.); Miss Korven and Miss Edberg (Norway, U.N.R.R.A.).

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Amongst the epidemic diseases on the Continent, diphtheria has proved the most prevalent. During the war it swept across the countries of Northern and Central Europe in a wave such as has not been seen for 50 years, and at his recent Press Conference the Chief Medical Officer said: "We must put diphtheria high on the list of post-war health problems which are facing Europe."

We are the only country in Europe which has been able to reduce the toll from this disease during the war; deaths have fallen by two-thirds since the immunisation campaign began in 1941, and the number of cases has been halved. But last year the number of children under five who were immunised was disappointingly low—scarcely more than half of those born in the previous year. There were 934 deaths, nearly 800 of them children under 15. Nearly all these children could have been saved.

In view of the situation on the Continent, it is vital to increase the present number of children under five years of age who are immunised. "Just before the first birthday" is the best time. Parents should heed the Chief Medical Officer's warning: "If you have not had your children protected against this disease, don't waste any more time; have it done *at once*."

The local council offices, school, or infant welfare centre will know where mothers can take their children to be immunised free of charge.

A continuation of your support in this campaign will be of great assistance in safeguarding the nation's children.

### FIGHT AGAINST RHEUMATISM.

#### Fullest Facilities under National Health Service.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, addressing the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists at a meeting in London recently, spoke of the changes in the rôle of physiotherapists during the progress of medical science, and the increasing stress now laid on active forms of treatment.

He emphasised the important part played by the physiotherapist in rehabilitation, and said that physiotherapy would have an ever-widening field of action in future years when the National Health Service was introduced. In this connection he stated that the fullest facilities for the treatment of rheumatic diseases were to be a part of the National Health Service.

### BLOOD DONORS NEEDED.

Reports reaching the Ministry of Health show that in some areas the hospitals' need for blood is now exceeding the supply. Stocks in the "blood banks" are dangerously low. At least 20,000 new donors are needed in the country as a whole.

The number of donors has fallen alarmingly since the end of the war, because there is a false impression that transfusion is a form of treatment needed to save lives only in time of war.

Throughout the country transfusions are used for the treatment of accidents, hæmorrhage, burns and for those diseases which it is now realised are properly treated by transfusion.

In particular it has been learnt how important blood transfusion is in the treatment of certain maternity cases, in which the lives of both infant and mother can now be saved. Transfusion is one of the chief factors now in the greatly lowered maternal and infant mortality rates.

A special appeal is made to those who have been on donor panels to continue their support wherever they are. Those not already enrolled in the Blood Transfusion Service are asked to enrol now at the local Blood Transfusion Depot or when a local appeal is made for new donors.

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