

Nursing Sister Leaving for Oil Camp in Qatar, Persian Gulf.

MISS GWENETH MILLER, a Nursing Sister, Ealing, who was evacuated from Abadan in September, 1951, is returning by air to the Persian Gulf this month. For the next two years, she will be attached to the staff of the "Shell" Overseas Exploration Company Limited in Doha, capital of the independent sheikhdom of Qatar, a peninsula about 8,000 square miles in size south of the island of Bahrein.

In December, 1952, Shell acquired a concession from the ruler of Qatar, H.E. Sheikh Ali bin Abdulla bin Qasim al Thani, to carry out oil exploration beneath the waters of the Persian Gulf. Submarine drilling is now in progress, aided by a former merchant vessel, the 4,000-ton *Shell Quest*, which has been extensively refitted to serve as a floating depot for men and equipment.

First Nursing Sister to be sent out by the company (to this part of the world), Miss Miller will live in the oil camp on the outskirts of Doha where half or more of Qatar's indigenous population of some 20,000 lives, earning its livelihood by pearling, fishing and grazing. She will assist the company's resident European doctor in running, for the benefit of employees, a small medical unit consisting, probably, of a consulting room and a two-bed observation ward. Serious cases are transferred by air to the hospital at Bahrein.

The only other woman to be appointed so far to Shell's staff in Doha is Miss June Sargeant of Surbiton, who is travelling out in April to be the General Manager's Secretary.

Miss Miller is looking forward to her two years in Qatar and, undeterred by the thought of the fierce heat and arid land, intends in her leisure hours to swim, sail and play tennis. Film showings and shopping expeditions to Bahrein will provide further recreation and, at the end of a year, she will spend four weeks "local" leave, probably in Cyprus or Lebanon.

She has been taking much-needed lessons in Arabic since, although she learnt Farsi in Persia, there is little similarity between the two languages.

Educated in Ealing, where her family have lived for many years, Miss Miller first took up secretarial training and worked for four years on the National Maritime Board. While in hospital, recovering from appendicitis, she decided that she would like to take up nursing and in May, 1943, started her training at the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth. In 1947 she qualified as a State Registered Nurse, then trained in midwifery at Chiswick and Bushey Maternity Hospitals.

In 1950, after a year in the obstetrics department at Hammersmith Hospital, she studied at the Tropical Diseases Centre at Sulton Hospital, Liverpool. She then nursed at Brighton General Hospital and, after returning from Persia, where she was actually at Aghajari, became Senior Sister at the Cyprus Mines Corporation Hospital, Pendeyia, on the north coast of Cyprus. Like so many Europeans, she would have liked to remain permanently in this beautiful Mediterranean island, with its great historical interest. Instead, however, she returned in December, 1952, to work in the operating theatres in Manchester Royal Infirmary before applying for her present appointment.

Nurses Never "Too Old at Forty".

IN THE NURSING PROFESSION there is no fear of being "too old at 40" said Miss Pat Hornsby-Smith, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, at Cambridge recently.

Miss Hornsby-Smith was opening extensions to Owlstone Road Preliminary Training School for Nurses which will provide accommodation for about 70 more nurses as well as new teaching facilities. Points from her speech were:

"Preliminary Training Schools have a big part to play in

making the student realise from the beginning that nursing is not, like some subjects, one that can be learned once and for all, and that a nurse, however long her experience, must always remain receptive to new ideas and changing methods.

"There is no doubt that the conditions of today offer a rich variety of opportunities to both trained and student nurses, not only in the hospital field but in public health work, industrial nursing, nurse teaching—to name a few. Every girl who has an aptitude for nursing can find a post suited to her particular abilities and temperament. Further, there is no fear of being too old at 40 in the nursing profession, the qualifications of an S.R.N. offer security and full employment to retirement age.

"But, encouraging though this situation is, there is still a grave shortage of nurses in some hospitals, particularly in Mental Hospitals and Mental Deficiency Institutions; we are constantly directing our attention, therefore, not only to maintaining a sufficient intake to the nursing profession but to possible ways of effecting greater economy in the use of our existing nursing resources.

"The extensions to the training school, at a cost of some £118,000, together with the additional residential accommodation have been a big undertaking, and should go far to meeting the needs here in Cambridge during the immediately foreseeable future. One most valuable result has been that it has now been possible to introduce the 96 hour fortnight at Addenbrookes. I would like to congratulate all those who have worked so hard in their various ways to complete this project."

The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

Final State Examination for the General Part of the Register.

(Female Nurses.)

Wednesday, 3rd February, 1954.

Medicine and Medical Nursing Treatment.

(FIRST PAPER)

Time allowed 1½ hours.

NOTE.—You must answer *THREE* questions and not more than three.

1. Give an account of the causes, symptoms and treatment of acute nephritis.
2. Describe the symptoms, complications and treatment of whooping cough.
3. What symptoms may occur with over-dosage of the following drugs:—
 - (a) morphine;
 - (b) digitalis;
 - (c) phenobarbitone?
 Give a brief account of the treatment of morphine poisoning.
4. What do you understand by coronary artery thrombosis? Give an account of the symptoms, treatment and nursing care of a patient suffering from this condition.
5. State briefly what you know about:—
 - (a) auricular fibrillation;
 - (b) bronchoscopy;
 - (c) cirrhosis of the liver;
 - (d) dehydration;
 - (e) erythema nodosum.

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