

### Ceremonial Opening of the Health Centre, Stoke Newington.

On Tuesday, October 14th, 1952, Mr. Somerville Hastings, M.S., F.R.C.S., M.P., opened in the presence of the Minister of Health and the Mayor and Mayoress of Hackney, local Members of Parliament and Presidents and Chairmen of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians, and many other representative bodies, the L.C.C.'s Woodberry Down Health Centre—the first fully comprehensive health centre to be built under the National Health Service Act.

The Centre, which it has taken four years to design, build and equip at a cost of about £155,000, represents the realisation of an ideal, of which Mr. Somerville Hastings has been one of the foremost pioneers, of bringing together in one building preventive and curative health services.

On and after Wednesday, October 15th, the Health Centre is being brought into use section by section as follows:—

October 15th	Maternity and Child Welfare	Infant welfare clinic.
	School Health Service	Minor ailments clinic.
		Special investigations clinic.
		Dental clinic.
		Child Guidance clinic.
October 16th	Maternity and Child Welfare	Dental clinic.
October 17th	Maternity and Child Welfare	Ante and post-natal clinic.
		Vaccination and immunisation clinic.
October 20th	School Health Service	Ophthalmology clinic.
October 23rd	Maternity and Child Welfare	Toddlers' clinic.
October 28th	School Health Service	Audiology clinic.
Dates yet to be decided	Maternity and Child Welfare	Physiotherapy clinic (sunlight, posture exercises, ante-natal exercises).
	Services available to the public generally	Chiropody, Dental, Ophthalmology and General Practitioner services.

We wish this venture by the London County Council the success it deserves, and hope it will long serve the public for whom such colossal work has been undertaken. In the event of its proving a success, we shall await, with pleasure, the news that further work in this field has been undertaken.

## Book Reviews.

### Hand Book for Ward Sisters.\*

IN THE PUBLICATION OF THIS VALUABLE book, we feel that Miss Margaret Scales, S.R.N., S.C.M., contributes an outstanding service to the whole nursing profession. She has given us a work in which the potency of the highest standard of nursing ethics are revealed in their true perspective as the fundamental principle underlying all practical teaching in the art of nursing.

At no time could the appearance of this book be more opportune or more welcome than the present when it is all too evident that in the evolution of theories and changing systems there are opinions working to ignore the art of bedside nursing.

In stressing the importance of personality, the writer considers that a sister needs to be a woman of many parts, her basic requirements deriving from a liberal education, a sound

\* Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 7 & 8, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2. Price 17s. 6d.

professional training and a knowledge of every-day life, and that among a sister's most valuable characteristics is sympathy.

Throughout her teaching Miss Scales stresses the principle, and over which she is adamant, that—The patient must come first. From the moment he arrives he must be met not merely as a number or just a patient—but as a human being—and as an individual who is to be treated with courtesy and sympathy from the time of settling in to the end of his hospital experience. To get a true understanding of his needs, interest should be shown in the home-life and background of the patient's environment and consideration of his visitors and relatives, creates a "good atmosphere" and a sense of confidence and ease.

Practical guidance, ward routine is marshalled in meticulous detail and the multitudinous problems pertaining to a sister's province in which she has three roles:—as nurse, as teacher, and as an administrator. The author, obviously a highly skilled and experienced nurse, writes of the Ward Sister in the role of nurse:—"Good nursing requires a knowledge of the individual in the world where he belongs, expresses himself, and earns his living; it tries to recognise physical, mental and spiritual needs, to give skilled help so that a patient can maintain health in all these aspects, and to supply care when the different parts of his nature become diseased, tender or distraught."

"How" nursing is made possible is another question, knowledge, skill, purpose, kindness, these and a perfect administration to safeguard environment and service are the pillars of good nursing. Indeed it is possible to look on nursing as an ethic and an economy, as well as a law of nature, for it is found in things such as parenthood, right government and so on; certainly nursing can offer a philosophy for living.

But above all a Ward Sister must be a good nurse, no amount of organising or teaching will excuse her from this, her chief role. She must know "how" to nurse and be anxious to do so whenever the occasion arises. Indeed, her whole attitude must be fixed on nursing that it stands out above all other functions and directs every duty and desire to the one end of nursing the patient back to health. Never for a moment must vigilance be relaxed or purpose be clouded; nor must "learning by experience" be the excuse for indifferent treatment by inexperienced nurses for that would be a sad reflection on her power to supervise. The hospital exists for the patient, the nursing of whom must be founded on the principle that he and his health are of first importance. The lowered standard of bedside nursing today may partly result from changed conditions and new schemes which surround the patient and blind or direct the loyalty and interest of those who tend him. No Ward Sister can afford to lose her way in such a maze; she must come right into the open and stand for good nursing above everything else, for this is her prime duty, and it can be performed by no one else.

We feel that this Hand Book for Ward Sisters holds a sound, inspiring message for all nurses far exceeding many text books, in its clarion call to re-capture and guard the art of nursing in its true perspective. This work comes, in our opinion, into the realm of a classic—to be read, re-read and greatly prized by the nursing profession, as a whole.

A. S. B.

### "Christmas Robin" Seals—Hope in Tuberculosis.

EIGHTY MILLION "Christmas Robin" Seals—the largest number ever issued—will decorate letters and parcels this year at Christmas time. These seals, which cost only a halfpenny, not only add a festive appearance to Christmas mail, but enable the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis to help thousands of sufferers from tuberculosis and to prevent the spread of this dangerous disease.

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