

mean extra expense, that it might be better to postpone some plans until a more appropriate time.

Miss Daisy Bridges, Executive Secretary to the International Council of Nurses ends her report by quoting:

"To what extent the International Council will be able in the future to cope with the increasing number of problems submitted to it and the great amount of research work of an international nature in urgent need of attention, will depend upon the degree to which the responsibility is felt by the member associations of the Council and their willingness to help carry this burden. It should be remembered that as a profession we can only be successful in so far as we learn to subjugate our own narrow national conceptions and interests to the higher cause of service to humanity. This common service it is which should bind nurses of all countries together—a service which, like the science on which the art of nursing is based, has neither creed nor nationality."

London Ambulance Service— Accident Figures for 1951.

LAST YEAR THE ACCIDENT SECTION of the London Ambulance Service dealt with a record number of calls. Statistics just available show that emergency calls in London, which had steadily increased from 56,971 in 1946 to 83,791, in 1950, rose again in 1951 to a total of 87,012. During the year the 38 ambulances in commission at the London County Council's 18 accident stations covered 443,683 miles, compared with 437,416 miles in 1950 and 410,917 miles in 1949.

The average time taken to reach the scene of the calls was 8.1 minutes. (For street accidents the time was even less—7.2 minutes.) The total time taken to reach the accident, to attend to the casualty and to arrive at hospital was 21.1 minutes, showing a slight reduction on the 21.2 minutes recorded in 1950.

Fridays and Saturdays proved to be the busiest days, each averaging 255 calls. Sundays were comparatively quiet, however, with an average of only 184 calls. June was the most hectic month (259 calls a day) and October the quietest (223).

The busiest hour for the Accident Section was from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (5,095 calls during the year), and the quietest was from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. (1,786). Street accidents were most prone to occur between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. (1,186 patients) and were fewest between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. (only 39 patients). Assaults were most frequent late at night (404 from 11 p.m. to midnight compared with only six from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.). Suicides were attempted at all hours of the day and night, with no peak period. Maternity cases maintained their reputation for occurring mostly at night, with a total of 1,521 calls from 3—4 a.m. compared with only 593 from 3—4 p.m.

During the year ambulances were required to deal with 13,631 patients involved in street accidents, 17,858 in other accidents, 1,559 victims of assault and 381 persons who attempted suicide. Among calls which, but for their special urgency, would normally be dealt with by the General Section of the Ambulance Service were 602 to mental patients, 1,379 to epileptics, 17,873 to persons suffering from other illness, 24,249 to maternity cases and 5,484 for analgesia apparatus.

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

AN OPEN CONFERENCE on "Hospital Planning—Present and Future" will take place on Tuesday, September 2nd, 1952, at the Henry Jarvis Hall of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, W.1. The price of tickets for Members is 2s. 6d., Non-Members 3s., and can be obtained from the Executive Secretary, the National Council of Nurses, 17, Portland Place, London, W.1.

MORNING SESSION.

Hospital Planning—the Present.

- 10 a.m. Introduction of the Chairman, and opening of the Conference.
Miss L. G. Duff Grant, R.R.C., President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 10.10 a.m. Chairman's Remarks.
Maxwell Tebbitt, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., Superintending Architect to the Ministry of Health, London.
- 10.15 a.m. Conference: A Modern Hospital—The Westminster Hospital London.

Speakers—

Mr. Lionel G. Pearson, F.R.I.B.A., Architect.
Sir Ernest Rock Carling, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., Surgeon.
Mr. C. M. Power, O.B.E., M.C., Administrator.
Miss Jean Rose, S.R.N., Sister Tutors' Certificate, Ward Sister.

11.30 a.m. Open Discussion.

12.30 p.m. Break for Luncheon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hospital Planning—the Future.

- 2.15 p.m. Chairman's Remarks.
- 2.20 p.m. Conference: Some Aspects for Future Hospital Planning.

Speakers—

Professor H. W. C. Vines, M.D., B.Ch., Professor of Pathology, Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Miss Mary Dunbar, writer on women's interests in the *Sunday Times*—representing the Patients' Point of View.

3.15 p.m. Open Discussion.

3.45 p.m. Chairman's Summary.

4 p.m. Conclusion of Conference.

As an Exhibition of the work of Recognised Schools of Architecture is being held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, it is regretted that it is not possible to serve refreshments on the premises.

Executive Committee Meeting.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be held on Thursday, October 23rd, 1952, at 2.30 p.m., at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1, by kind permission of Miss G. M. Kirby, the Matron, and the Hospital Board of Governors. The agenda will be sent to all affiliated associations in due course.

International Council of Nurses Congress in Brazil, 1953.

AT THE MEETING OF THE Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses held on 24th April, 1952, the President, Miss Duff Grant, reported information regarding the forthcoming International Council of Nurses Congress to be held in Brazil in 1953. It was

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