

An Outstanding Progressive of the Nursing Profession.

FELLOWS AND MEMBERS WILL be greatly interested to learn of the continued distinguished career of their colleague, Miss Edith M. F. Pritchard, a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd. since its inception, whose distinction is in her attainment of being a Registered Nurse in three countries—England, South Africa and the United States of America, where she has now been appointed as Director of the newly established two year Nursing Course at Fairleigh Dickinson College.

Miss Pritchard received her General Training at Poplar Hospital and is also a Registered Fever Nurse.

The Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., appreciating Miss Pritchard's educational ability, were happy to award her a grant towards the attainment of the Sister Tutor's Diploma, which she gained with distinction at King's College, London.



Miss Edith M. F. Pritchard.

Following her professional work in this country, Miss Pritchard emigrated to South Africa where in the course of her activities she was elected First Chairman from South Africa of the International Hospital Association, a post she held for seven years. She also held the South African Chair of Nursing Education of the International Council of Nurses for two years.

Going to America in 1945, intending to give one year to the Study of Nursing education there, she remained to take positions as Principal of the Nursing Schools in two American Hospitals.

She was contributing editor of a professional journal, "The Trained Nurse and Hospital Review," now "The Nursing World."

She attained her B.S. in Nursing Education and Administration, and her M.A. in Guidance and personnel work, from New York University.

A very live wire! We salute Miss Pritchard in her brilliant achievements.

Public Health in 1950.

Chief Medical Officer's Review

SIR JOHN CHARLES, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, looks back over the first half of this century in his report* on the state of public health in England and Wales, just published.

He finds the population has increased from 34 to near 44 million, that the proportion of persons over 65 has more than doubled, increasing from 5 per cent. to 11 per cent., and that the middle-aged (45 to 64) now form 24 per cent. instead of 15 per cent., while children (0-14) were in 1950 only 22 per cent. instead of 32 per cent. of the whole.

There has been "a really remarkable decline" in mortality of 57 per cent. "Women, not content with starting the century with some advantage in this respect, have enjoyed a decrease in mortality of 59 per cent. compared with 55 per cent. for the mere male." Infant and maternal mortality rates are one-fifth of what they were at the beginning of the century, the death rate of children of under two from diarrhoea and enteritis one-twelfth and summer diarrhoea has disappeared.

Immunisation Success

These 50 years saw the beginning of the school medical service and of school meals and milk. In this time the death rate of boys of school age fell by 76 per cent. and girls by 82 per cent. Increased wages, greater sobriety, more food, better housing, wiser education in the care of children, smaller families and some probable diminution in the virulence of the infecting organism brought down the case fatality of some diseases such as measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough.

"Despite an incidence but little diminished, these three diseases, which were responsible for 26,943 deaths in 1898, caused only 1,113 in 1948. Improved environmental hygiene and the chlorination of water supplies have almost eliminated typhoid fever in civil medicine," he says. The achievements of active immunisation in other diseases, culminating in the success of the diphtheria campaign, were rivalled by the practical conquest of typhus by D.D.T., an insecticide that in other lands is also playing a great part in the campaign against malaria.

"Outcome of T.B. Battle is Certain."

Compared with 1900 the death rate from respiratory tuberculosis is less than a quarter of what it was. For the non-respiratory forms of the disease the reduction is even greater, and in 1950 the death rate was less than one-thirteenth of the mean annual death rate for 1891-1900. "These simple statements conceal half a century of endeavour and achievement," points out Sir John. "The battle is not yet over but the outcome is certain." But this "brilliant picture of progress" has its darker aspects. Cancer, and especially cancer of the lung, remains the greatest problem of medicine, while some diseases have noticeably increased, such as poliomyelitis and coronary thrombosis. Less serious blemishes are the prevalence of a mild form of dysentery, food poisoning, and the continued defiance of the common cold.

About the year 1950 itself, Sir John says that the remarkable fall of 20 per cent. in the number of deaths from tuberculosis compared with 1949, when the number was the lowest then recorded in this country, should greatly encourage us, adding: "But much remains to be done, and a plea is made that the problem should be viewed as a whole, avoiding over emphasis of certain features and under-estimation of others. Prevention of an admittedly preventable disease should not be beyond our powers given close integration of the clinical, preventive and social side of the work."

During 1950 the number of mass miniature radiography

* Report of the Ministry of Health Part II on the State of Public Health, being the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for the year 1950, Cmd. 858 H.M.S.O. Price 6s.

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