

scholarship to enable a midwife to study overseas and return to teach in the Nurses' Post-graduate School, and £200 from the Hester Maclean Fund was donated towards the £650 which was required for the scholarship. The balance remaining in the Fund has been used as part of the cost of the insignia, which was designed and made in London by Leslie Durbin, whose services were obtained through the courtesy of Mr. G. R. Hughes, Clerk of Goldsmiths' Hall.

"Miss Maclean graduated from the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, in 1893, and during the following 12 years had wide experience in hospital and district work. In 1905 she went to England to take midwifery training, afterwards returning to her work in Australia. In 1906, Miss Maclean came to New Zealand and was appointed Assistant Inspector of Hospitals, and Deputy Registrar of Nurses and Midwives; in 1911 she became Matron-in-Chief of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service, and she held these positions until her retirement in 1923. Her services were recognised by the award of the Royal Red Cross in 1920, and she was the first New Zealand nurse to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal in recognition of her distinguished record.

"Miss Maclean's service to nursing in this country extended far beyond the bounds of the duties of her official positions, and she accomplished a vast amount of work in a private capacity. She was instrumental in amalgamating the four nurses' associations into one national association in 1909; in 1908 she produced the *New Zealand Nursing*



Insignia to be worn by the Dominion President.

*Journal* which she owned, edited and managed until her retirement in 1923 when it was purchased by the Association. She retained the editorship, however, until her death in 1932.

"As first President of the New Zealand Registered Nurses' Association and Editor of the *Nursing Journal* for over 23 years, it is appropriate that this Memorial to Hester Maclean takes a form which will ensure that her name is kept before nurses of this country for many generations to come."

#### The Five Point Star.

"The five point star originated with the priests of the temple of Isis, some thousands of years before the Christian era, and is the recognised badge of those connected with medicine. These priests devoted their lives to the pursuit of knowledge of the secret arts and sciences (occult and mystic), of the healing properties of herbs, and the various methods of combating disease.

"To secure the admission of worthy and reliable men alone into this Order of Priesthood, oaths of allegiance were required, and sworn upon a representation of a five point star which was considered to be an emblem of the eye of Ra (God of God, who seest all things), and a curative and healing agency.

"Each point of the star was of peculiar import, representing volition, fidelity, or intellect, and were explained to the candidate for admission as follows: (1) Hand; (2) Foot; (3) Knee; (4) Breast; (5) Head or Intellect.

A portion of the oath administered was as follows:

1. The Hand: That my hand shall be ever extended to help, comfort and relieve the sick and suffering.
2. The Foot: That my feet shall not falter, loiter or linger, when journeying to alleviate the suffering of the sick.
3. The Knee: That my knee shall bow in supplication to Almighty Ra, for aid in my endeavour to succour and relieve the sick and the suffering.
4. The Breast: That my breast shall be a safe and sacred repository for any secret entrusted to me or divulged during the sickness of delirium or otherwise obtained.
5. The Head: That I will constantly pursue the study of the secret arts, That I will exercise my knowledge to the benefit of the suffering, mental or bodily distress, and that I will disseminate such knowledge among others that my preceptors may authorise and direct."

(Extract from Plumridge's *Medical Miscellanys*).

## The General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

A MEETING OF THE General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held at the offices of the Council, 23, Portland Place, London, W.1., on May 22nd, 1953.

### Finance

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and the sums of £5,400 for Cash Account, and £250 for postage were allowed.

The resignation of Mrs. C. M. Fitch, Enrolment Officer was received with regret.

It was reported that a letter from the Earl Marshal's office, offering the Council three additional seats in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation ceremony, had been considered. It was agreed that the seats be offered to Miss M. F. Smyth, Vice-Chairman of Council, and Miss D. A. Lane and Miss A. Catnach in order of their length of service, which were accepted.

### Education and Examination

It was reported that the Committee has considered a draft amendment to the Rules relating to exemption from Part I of the Preliminary Examination, and that the Minister of Health must give his approval to such an amendment.

Approval of Hospitals as Training Schools was granted; and a Pre-Nursing Course was approved.

### HOSPITALS TO SAVE £54,000 p.a. FOR £100,000 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

BY ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS of the British Launderers' Research Association for reorganising the laundries in a large number of their hospitals, the Western Region Hospital Board in Scotland expects to save at least £54,000 per annum for a capital expenditure of £100,000.

At the invitation of the Western Region Hospital Board, members of the staff of the B.L.R.A. paid visits to some ninety West of Scotland hospital laundries last year. The Department of Health for Scotland has now accepted the whole scheme of reorganisation and centralisation suggested by the B.L.R.A. and it is hoped that work to put it into effect will begin very shortly.

In addition to the £54,000 per annum which it is anticipated will be saved on the capital expenditure of £100,000, mainly on new plant, it is possible that a similar sum can be saved annually by this group of hospitals in respect of water, fuel and materials used in the laundries when the B.L.R.A.'s recommendations are operating fully. An adviser has been appointed.

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