

## Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association.

ON FRIDAY, 29TH MAY, 1953, the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association held their second meeting concerning their considered opposition to the proposed closure of the Fever Nurses Register by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

It was reported that a copy of the following letter, agreed upon at the former meeting held on 27th March, was sent to important medical associations, and most courteous replies promising support had been received. The Minister of Health had also been communicated with on this important problem :—

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

May, 1953.

At a Special Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association held on 27th March, 1953, the important question concerning the probable closure of the Fever Nurses Register was considered with grave misgiving.

In the deliberations great emphasis was laid upon the fact that Infectious Diseases, including Small-pox Epidemics, have been on the increase in a more virulent type during the past four years than for a decade previously, in which skilled nursing in Infectious Diseases is of such vital importance. To these cases must be added the steady invasion of Poliomyelitis all the year round, with its annual mid-summer peak period.

It was considered that the indeterminate attitude of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, in not making any definite statement concerning the fate of the Fever Register, was responsible for the lack of recruits for Fever Nursing.

Being strongly of opinion that the closure of the Fever Register at the present time would be a retrograde step and inimicable to public safety, the Meeting unanimously adopted the following Resolution :—

### RESOLUTION.

“ This Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association strongly protests against the proposed closure of the State Fever Nurses Register by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, before an equivalent substitute has been evolved in which the present recognised standard of efficiency in skilled Infectious Nursing shall be continued and maintained.”

The members of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association will be most grateful for your valuable support in this matter so vital to the safety of the public good.

Yours sincerely,

ADA A. WARD,

President.

The members of the Committee further considered the proposed changes in the constitution and title of the Association.

As agreed at the former meeting held on 27th March, the following proposals embodied in a circular letter were issued to all members inviting their opinion and consent to the suggested changes and to which all the replies received were in favour of the proposed alterations :—

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

May, 1953.

Dear Madam,

At the Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association held on Thursday, 27th March, 1953, it was reported that since the closure of the League of Fever Nurses, there had been enquiries from fully qualified Fever Nurses as to their desire for membership of a representative body of infectious nurses. In view of the fact that there is now no such association for Fever

Nurses below the rank of Matron, it was suggested that if an alteration in the title of The Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association to that of Infectious Diseases Nurses' Association was made, involving a slight adjustment in the Constitution permitting the admission of other ranks, this would meet the need and widen the scope of the work and bring a larger circle into touch with the ideals of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It was felt also that this step would be especially opportune for Fever Nurses at this time when changes in their professional affairs should be carefully understood and realised.

Will you be kind enough to answer within ten days, or as soon as possible, whether or not you agree to these suggestions to :—

MISS A. STEWART BRYSON, *Hon. Treasurer*,  
Fonthill Cottage, Coldharbour Lane,  
Dorking, Surrey.

If you are not a member of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association, would you not like to join at this very critical period and give us your very practical support. The annual subscription is only 5s.

From this Meeting we also communicated with most of the important Medical Bodies concerning the retrograde proposal to close the Fever Nurses Register, so please help us in this effort for adequate recognition of this very fine branch of our Profession.

Hoping to hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

ADA A. WARD,

President.

It was therefore unanimously agreed that :—(a) This Association shall consist of past and present Matrons of Infectious Hospitals and fully qualified fever nurses. (b) That the title of the Association shall be : The Infectious Hospitals Matrons' and Nurses' Association. (c) The annual subscription be 7s. 6d for matrons, and 5s. for qualified fever nurses.

The meeting then terminated.

## Study Week on Psychiatric and Mental Deficiency Nursing.

A SERIES OF LECTURES, and visits to Psychiatric and Mental Deficiency Hospitals, is being arranged by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, together with the Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, and in consultation with the Royal College of Nursing. The course is being designed for a party not exceeding 40 in number, and accommodation for participants will be arranged in London. The course will be for a week's duration, commencing on Monday, September 20th, 1953.

It is primarily open to Nurses in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who are members of one of the affiliated Associations of the National Council of Nurses and applications are invited. The list will close on June 30th, when Nurses from other countries will be invited to apply for vacancies that may occur.

Further particulars will be sent on application to the Executive Secretary of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 17, Portland Place, London, W.1, and a stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed for this purpose.

ON CORONATION DAY, June 2nd, the London Ambulance Service dealt with a record number of emergency and accident calls. About 650 patients were removed in the period from midnight to midnight. This represents an increase of some 40 per cent. on the previous highest total of 467—which occurred on the occasion of the 1937 Coronation.

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