

**Resolution I.**

There was unanimous agreement on the need for more experienced medical men in the Casualty Department of General Hospitals and for the reservation of a limited number of beds for accident cases.

**Resolution II.**

The N.C.W. deplores sensationalism in certain sections of the press, and the prominence given to unwholesome detail. After discussion this was agreed to.

**Resolution III.**

A suggestion that old school buildings should be renovated and less money spent on new buildings while funds were scarce, was agreed to.

**Resolution IV.**

In view of the increasing number of road deaths, it was unanimously recommended that provisional driving licences for motor cycles be granted only for a limited period, and that the holder be required to pass a driving test after a reasonable period of instruction.

**Resolution V.**

Re post-war credits. After discussion, it was agreed to recommend that holders of post-war credits should not be compelled to wait till their sixtieth or sixty-fifth birthday for payment.

*Wednesday, 8 p.m.*—Civic Reception in Freemasons' Hall. The Rt. Hon. the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Lady Provost, accompanied by the Town Councillors in their Robes of Office received his Guests. We were entertained to an exhibition of Country Dancing. A Buffet Supper was provided and we spent a very enjoyable evening.

**Resolution VI.**

Everyone was agreed that children should be protected from unsuitable films and that parents should be impressed with their responsibility in this matter.

*Thursday p.m. International Session.*—The Dowager Lady Nunburnholme presided. The Report was read and discussion followed on the work of the Conference at Helsinki. A resolution from the Committee of Management of the N.C.W. supporting the principle of technical assistance to under-developed countries, accompanied by a better understanding of the customs and traditions of the beneficiary countries.

Votes of thanks were then passed to the Chairman of the International Session, to the President of the Edinburgh Branch and to Mrs. Freeman, President of the N.C.W. Great Britain, who conducted this Conference so ably, and with such grace and charm. I beg to thank the Executive Committee of the British College of Nurses for the privilege of attending the Conference.

ELIZABETH BRODIE.

## Some Student Nurses I Have Met.

IT IS VERY human and very understandable for us of an older generation to say that when we were Student Nurses (or "probationers" as we were then described), we were happier; much more hardworking and long suffering and much, much more honourable, trustworthy and reliable than those of today! Indeed we were little short of miracle nurses or plaster saints and never, since our long-lamented day, have sick people in any hospital ever been so well cared for and nursed.

Having duly given ourselves a large and comforting pat on the back, we will now take a peep at present day Students and see how they match up to the perfection that was ours.

When we were training the burning, though unspoken, question in our minds, was:

"Shall I be successful, or will the powers that be terminate my contract for reasons of health, naughtiness or failure at examinations?" Amongst the very articulate questions of Miss Nurse 1954 are:

"When will my day off be next week?"

"How much will be in my pay packet?"

"How many chances will I be given to get through my Preliminary State Examination? (Nurse Jones had only four chances)."

"Will I get off duty punctually, and have my lectures out of my duty hours?" etc., etc.

Not very long ago a charming group of nurses from another continent arrived at a hospital five days before they were due to commence their studies in the Preliminary Training School. Matron, being a kindly soul, gave them four days in which to recuperate from their journey and find their way around the great Metropolis before commencing their training. One week later another straggler of the party arrived, having spent a few days in New York City en route, seeing the sights. On arrival, her first question, accompanied by a disarming smile was:

"Matron, may I take my four days off and go to visit some friends of mine, please? I'll be back on Monday."

Another young student who had progressed for a fortnight, went to Matron very trustfully and said:

"Matron, as I am entitled to a month's holiday this year, may I take two weeks now, and go away with some friends, please?"

One wonders what has happened to the physical stamina of our present-day young students. For it is not uncommon to find nurses going away for one whole month's holiday by the sea or in the heart of the country, only to find the unusual exertion (or deprivation of hospital diet?) has rendered them debilitated and unable to return to duty on the agreed date because of ill-health!

Again, one is bewildered by the fact that when Nurses are going away for holidays, they know to a split second just when their train departs from Paddington. For days beforehand they make plans to ensure they do not miss their train, even if it means upsetting arrangements made on the ward some time previously! But can they make sure of the time their train returns to Paddington at the conclusion of their holidays? For some obscure reason, they cannot. It seems utterly beyond their capacity to make the same well-laid plans for their return, and thus big gaps occur on the staff establishment throughout the Summer time.

Then there is the little matter of Church attendance. We all know that the little darlings must go to Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation. Yet it does strike some of us as extremely odd that the obligation to go to Church is so much more binding when Nurses are on duty than when they are off duty!

Another perplexing problem is the one relating to social problems. Here is indeed a paradox! Very occasionally, when a Nurse is being gently chided (one dare not mention the phrase as "being ticked off") for coming in late at nights or well after dawn has broken, Nurse often complains that hospital life is so dull after duty hours and she goes out to find relaxation and recreation, etc., etc., etc.! Matron, feeling an utter cad for even mentioning the lateness of the hour of nurse's return, promptly gives her a pair of theatre tickets for the next evening, and arranges a lovely Ball for the enjoyment of the Staff. Being very considerate and delicate in her feelings for the possible state of her Nurses' finance, arranges for dress to be optional; either Fancy Dress, afternoon or evening dress, or even sports wear! Every Nurse may invite a male escort for herself.

On the night of the ball, luscious refreshments are provided on beautifully arranged supper tables. Expensive Spot

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)