

have been having discussions on the subject for some time, to agree on the contribution that each side should make.

Of the total of 5,022 entrants for the First Examination during the year under review, all but 215, and of the 3,125 entrants for the School Examination, all but 162, were nurses on the general or sick children's part of the register of the General Nursing Council. The corresponding figures for nurses entering for the examinations last year were 218 and 182 respectively.

Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination. Non-residential courses of instruction were conducted in London, Birmingham and Liverpool. In addition, a course of instruction, confined to staff, was started at the City of London Maternity Hospital on June 1st, 1953. During the year the sixth and seventh residential courses were held at the Midwife Teachers Training College, High Coombe, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

Part I of the Midwife Teachers Diploma Examination was held in May/June and November/December, and of 150 entries, 55 candidates were successful.

Part II was held in July and January, 1954, and of 113 entries, 50 candidates were successful.

Midwife Teachers Training College. The Board have continued to be represented on the Council of the Midwife Teachers Training College and to provide secretarial assistance for it. Of the 32 candidates from the sixth and seventh courses who entered for Part I of the examination during the year, 13 were successful, and of the 26 who entered for Part II, 14 were successful.

Visit to Ireland. In April, 1953, the chairman, secretary and an Educational Supervisor visited the Republic of Ireland at the invitation of An Bord Altranais, and Northern Ireland at the invitation of the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland. During their stay they visited training schools in each area and had discussions with members of both An Bord Altranais and the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland on the question of reciprocal enrolment.

Midwifery training in the Colonies. As a result of the new powers given to them under the Midwives (Amendment) Act, 1950, the Board asked the Colonial Office for details of midwifery training in the Colonies with a view to considering whether it might be possible to enter into agreements with some of the Colonies, under which midwives trained there who wished to qualify as midwives in this country would receive a predetermined amount of further training, with examination, as a condition of enrolment here. The Colonial Office forwarded these details in the course of the year and the Board are studying them to see whether any Colony might usefully be approached for an agreement to be negotiated.

The Board already have agreements with many Dominions, under which their midwives can become enrolled as midwives in this country after certain training has been undertaken.

Nitrous Oxide and Air Analgesia. The Board have continued with the training of midwives and pupil-midwives in the administration of nitrous oxide and air analgesia. The number of midwives authorised to administer it was as follows at March 31st, 1954:—

Certificates issued by hospitals	2,479
Persons trained under the Board—	
(a) before enrolment	18,460
(b) after enrolment	7,480
Persons trained outside England and Wales ..	969
Total number of midwives proficient	29,388

Of this total, 13,546 were in practice in 1953/54. On March 31st, 1954, there were 260 institutions approved by the Board to provide this training.

National Uniform for Midwives. Since February 1st, 1948, the Board have issued 4,785 signed uniform permits to midwives for the purpose of acquiring part or all of the national

uniform. Of this number, 222 were issued during the year under review.

Apportionment of Contributions between the Local Health Authorities under Section 23 of the Midwives Act, 1951. The levies on the local health authorities of England and Wales to meet the deficiency in the Board's revenue for the year 1953, collected by apportionment amongst the various authorities, amounted to £19,212 11s. 5d., as against £21,057 12s. 3d. for 1952.

Your First Baby*

By Daphne F. R. Gale, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., S.C.M.

IN THIS EXCELLENT booklet, Miss Gale gives you the benefit of many years of experience as Superintendent Midwife and Sister, Mothercraft, at St. Thomas' Hospital.

It gives guidance and advice and should remove any apprehension; help to insure a joyful motherhood and a healthy, happy baby.

Every item is clearly illustrated by clever sketches and actual photographs. What a treasure for 2s.!

D.B.

* Published by English Universities Press, Ltd., St. Paul's House, Warwick Sq., London, E.C.4. Price 2s. net.

Love Came to the World at Christmas.

Love came to the world at Christmas,
Came as a tiny Child.

Love came to the world at Christmas,

When snow fell cold and wild.

The skies were filled with singing

By choirs from on high,

Goodwill and Peace we're bringing

They echoed far and nigh.

Love comes to the world at Christmas,

Comes to the hearts of men.

Love comes to the world at Christmas,

Comes to their hearts as then.

All folk still love the story

Of the Christ Child's lowly birth,

And glimpse the power and glory

Should Peace envelop the earth.

Love comes to the world at Christmas,

May we ope' our hearts to give.

Love comes to the world at Christmas,

Through us may Christmas live.

Love comes to the world at Christmas,

Can be with us all the time,

If we let the spirit of Christmas

Shine forth as the hours chime.

GRACE PURSGLOVE.

Last Word for 1954.

Our Ship.

My friends! we're setting out—and "we shall win"
For in our minds we pack not gloom or doubt
How can our harvest crops come in
If landscapes with good seed are not laid out?

The ship that sails upon our nursing sea
And brings the cargoes back in endless bale,
Is resting on the harbour quay
If in our duty we should cease or fail.

Our need above all else is "hope"
So let us go—our flags unfurl,
And give to all the "range and scope"
For "talents" in our nursing world.

M. B. M.

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