

So it appears that in order to arrest the flight from our hospitals and to assure the continuity of the Nursing profession, much more money will have to be found in order to build up the salaries of all grades of State Registered Nurses to compete with those offered to skilled people in business and industry. The "other ranks" would automatically become unnecessary and once again Matrons would enjoy the great pleasure of being able to choose the best applicants from an ever increasing flow of would-be nurses. Let us all hope and pray that better times are ahead for our sorely-tried profession and that this Christmas will be the very last one when youngsters of 24 can earn much more than ward sisters and matrons who daily shoulder heavy responsibilities and do overtime work often to breaking point, for no material rewards whatsoever.

And on this note, the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING wishes all its readers, at home and abroad a very, very, happy Christmas and a prosperous and bright New Year.

G. M. H.

Malaria Control in Nepal.

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION has sent an expert malariologist to Nepal to assist in the country's malaria control programme.

He is Dr. V. P. Jacob, formerly responsible for malaria control and general health in all Indian Army institutions of the Delhi area. Dr. Jacob travelled by train from Delhi to Raxaul and then by road to Kathmandu, and is carrying out a survey of the malaria control project area in the first instance.

The area covered by the project is in the Rapti Valley and around Bhimpedi, southwest of Kathmandu and just to the north of the Terai district in Uttar Pradesh. Although no reliable statistics are available, malaria is known to be a very serious problem throughout the area and represents an important obstacle to the economic aspects of Nepal's Rapti Valley Development Scheme.

Anti-Leprosy Campaign in Thailand.

UNDER AN AGREEMENT between the Government of Thailand, the World Health Organization and U.N.I.C.E.F. Dr. Ramon Miquel has been posted to Thailand as Leprosy Adviser to the Government in the rural aspects of leprosy control. Dr. Miquel has had more than two years of field work in leprosy control in rural areas of India, and he will assist the Thai Government in re-organising the Division of Leprosy Control of the Department of Health.

Leprosy is regarded as a major public health problem in Thailand, and a nation-wide drive for its ultimate eradication is proposed by the Government. This will start with a pilot project in Khon Khaen to demonstrate that the disease is curable and to adapt existing techniques to local conditions.

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There are now 1,200,000 physicians in the world and the 595 medical schools operating in 85 countries graduate annually between 50 and 60,000 new doctors.

These facts are to be found in a recent study made by Doctor James L. Troupin of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.). He is Chief of the Section of Assistants to Educational Institutions at W.H.O. Headquarters in Geneva.

This study features the world-wide distribution of physicians and shows a great inequality in the distribution of these key figures in the development of health work among the world's 2,500 million people.

Nursing Echoes.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY is again offering two Scholarships of £350 each for the 1956-57 session, to British Nurses for study outside the British Isles.

The Scholarship assists with tuition fees, board, lodging and incidental expenses, but does not include the cost of fares to and from the country where the Course is taken.

These annual Scholarships provide an opportunity for post-graduate study and an international exchange of ideas which must always be invaluable. Scholars may join recognised post-Certificate Courses in Canada, the United States of America or elsewhere and study such subjects as Hospital or Public Health Nursing, administration, teaching in schools of nursing or work in specialised fields. Candidates must be State Registered Nurses, holding Part I Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and must have attained a high standard of education; with at least three years' good professional experience subsequent to registration: preference will be given to candidates who show powers of leadership. Scholars will be expected to return to positions of responsibility in this country.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Matron-in-Chief, B.R.C.S., 7, Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1. Completed forms should be returned not later than March 1st, 1956.

Candidates may be asked to attend a meeting of the Selection Committee, after which the successful candidates will be required to fill in certain forms demanded for scholars, and also to furnish medical and dental certificates.

THE ISLAND OF Malta, G.C., rises as a natural fortress out of the rich blue waters of the Mediterranean and its friendly people have, for over 150 years, been part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. To many minds its name will recall the epic siege of 1942 and wartime convoys getting through at great cost to our gallant merchant seamen, and a fitting memorial to their sacrifice stands overlooking the Grand Harbour of Malta's chief city Valletta is in the form of a General Hospital of some 50 beds—called the King George V Merchant Seamen's Memorial Hospital. This is a fee-paying institution which was founded in 1920 "to promote and minister to the spiritual and temporal welfare of merchant seamen and others by means of surgical and medical aid," and if the seamen in-patients are not so numerous the number of Maltese and British civilians—particularly the mothers—are coming in increasing numbers. So great is the scope indeed that there now exists an urgent and imperative demand for nurses, doctors and others to assist those now carrying on with such devotion and at considerable sacrifice. They themselves count it a privilege to obey this call from God—they invite any who are suitably fitted to join them. If you care to write to the Secretary at 46, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1, he will be pleased to furnish you with further information.

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