

year, in the same period, there were 344,269 donations, which means an increase this year of over 35,000.

As many as 59,551 people gave their blood for the first time in the same period. At the end of June the total strength of the donors' panel was 571,659, an increase in six months of over 31,000. This is 6,000 more than the total increase in the whole of 1954.

Despite this very welcome increase, however, the National Blood Transfusion Service still needs many more regular donors to meet the ever growing demands for blood, and to make sure that no one need be asked to give blood more than twice a year, to replace the older donors when they reach the age of 65 and to provide adequate reserves of blood plasma. Anyone who is in normal health and between the ages of 18 and 65 is welcome at the donor sessions that are held frequently in convenient places throughout England and Wales.

## Ministry of Labour and National Service.

5th December, 1955.

*Bristol, Central*

89. Mr. Stan Awbery: To ask the Minister of Labour, in view of the shortage of male nurses for our mental hospitals, he will take steps to bring to the notice of young men, when they become due for call-up, that if they wish to take nursing examination courses they can obtain deferment of national service for this purpose and that there is a training allowance for each of the three years of training for them and their dependants.

*Mr. Harold Watkinson*

Yes, Sir. I would like this to be as widely known as possible, and also the fact that the men who have trained as nurses will be able to continue nursing during their National Service. What the honourable Member suggests is already being done. Special posters have been provided for exhibition at Employment Exchanges, particularly on days when men register for National Service, and leaflets giving full details about allowances during training are also available.

I am considering whether any further steps can be taken to give this matter wider publicity.

## The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health.

Discussion on Tuberculosis, 2nd December, 1955,  
Sessional Meeting at Bradford.

AT THIS Sessional Meeting the following statements were made on the incidence of Tuberculosis:—

Where large numbers of people are crowded together the incidence of tuberculosis rises, a Sessional Meeting of the Royal Society of Health was told.

Dr. D. K. Stevenson, the well-known Bradford chest physician, said that with crowded buses and trains and frequent attendance at dance halls and cinemas, it was not surprising that the rate of tuberculosis in young people remained high.

"Bradford, in recent years," declared Dr. Stevenson, "has attracted Pakistan and Indian labour to the mills.

"These immigrants live in overcrowded conditions, and the number developing tuberculosis is increasing every year."

The speaker added that Bradford's M.O.H., with the co-operation of the industry, was endeavouring to obtain a register of these people so that a survey by mass miniature radiography could be carried out.

Dr. Stevenson stressed the valuable part played by health visitors in fighting tuberculosis in the homes of the patients.

It was most undesirable that infectious grandparents should live with grandchildren.

Finally, he declared that the "death rate from tuberculosis has dropped dramatically in recent years, due mostly to the higher standard of living."

At the present rate of building it would take Bradford 26 years to provide substitute through houses for its 26,000 back-to-back houses.

Bradford's Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. H. Myers, told a Sessional Meeting of the Royal Society of Health.

Even this could only come about if all other calls on the housing pool were ignored. No one could contemplate such a programme.

"It seems," he added, "that only the worst can be removed and the rest will remain for the next 30 to 50 years."

He was not, at the same time, unduly concerned about the continuous use of back-to-back houses.

The fact that patients living in such houses close to factories where they got a double dose of atmospheric pollution had, however, been a consideration in deciding whether or not to advise removal to the outskirts of the City.

But where this type of house was built in wider streets and in isolated blocks, he had not noticed any stuffiness or lack of ventilation.

The answer to the problem, added Mr. Myers, lay in preventing atmospheric pollution. This meant a rapid expansion of smokeless zones, or the setting up of smoke control areas.

Wakefield's M.O.H., Dr. C. G. K. Thompson, who described tuberculosis as a "disease of stress and distress" said that the mental aspect of the problem had not received as much attention as it might have done.

The way to overcome the disease was to create a healthy community. An improvement in general and mental health, the best food for mothers and children and the elimination of slums would all help to bring this about.

## The Passing Bell.

Margaret Finlayson Steele, R.R.C., F.B.C.N.

IT IS WITH GREAT regret that we have to record the passing, on 29th November, of Miss Margaret Finlayson Steele, R.R.C., a Fellow of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., since its inception, and in whose passing we lose a colleague of outstanding ability and devotion to duty.

After her general training, which she received at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, Miss Steele joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in 1904. In some 16 years of conspicuous service and during World War I, first as sister-in-Charge of the Surgical Wards at the Millbank Officers' Hospital, and later in 1916 to become Matron of the Prince of Wales's at the Old Great Central Hotel in Marylebone Road, her devoted care, her skill and firm discipline won the respect and grateful admiration of her patients, who came to realise her kindness of heart.

As Secretary of the United Nursing Services Club, a position to which she was appointed in 1921, and which she held with distinction for some 20 years, her strong efficient organising ability prevailed, bringing the Club to a high standard, and which to its members was a household word. She was ever vigilant that there should be comfort, a homely atmosphere, and a delectable cuisine.

She was endowed with a keen sense of humour, direct, forceful in her decisions and always having the courage of her convictions.

In her long outstanding career it could be said of Miss Steele that she had truly learned of the Prophet's words—"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)