

The National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has planned a Study Tour from June 26th to July 1st, 1955, inclusive, for 30 nurses.

Residence.

The Course will be residential in the City of Sheffield, where from the fifteenth century onwards it has been the centre for the English Cutlery Trade.

Itinerary.

The Itinerary will include Lectures on the following:—

- The National Health Service.
- The Treatment of Poliomyelitis.
- Care of the Elderly (visits with District Nurses).
- Chest Surgery.
- Ophthalmology.

Visits to places of cultural interest are arranged, including a visit to Lea Hurst—former home of Florence Nightingale, and Chatsworth House, one of the Stately Homes of England.

Social.

Reception by the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall.
Cocktail Party—Host, Sir Basil Gibson, Chairman, Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.
Reception by the Royal College of Nursing (Sheffield Branch).

Cost.

The approximate charge for the course is £7, depending upon the number of participants. It includes, accommodation, board, and cost of transport in and around Sheffield. Further particulars will be circulated to applicants nearer the time.

Members of associations affiliated to the National Council of Nurses should make application for the tour by March 12th, to the Executive Secretary at 17, Portland Place, London, W.1.

Father Couldn't Take It.

SCOTLAND'S FIRST EVER Mothercraft Exhibition did not take place at the end of February after all, as announced recently, but has had to be postponed to the beginning of June. The reason: There just was not sufficient time for the contestants in the various competitions we had planned to make their preparations.

This applied particularly to that Fathers' Baby Handling Competition it was hoped would be such a success. Very few entries were received, because, so at least one Scottish father said: "A chap needs time to train before he's ready to make an exhibition of himself bathing a wee bairn in public. . . ."

The Handicrafts Competition again, for which entry forms can now be obtained from the Organiser, Mrs. Eileen Henderson, at 74, Holland Park, London, W.11, should now definitely appeal to a much wider circle of Scottish ladies when they have another three months to produce something really first class, in any of these groups: Needlework, Embroidery, Leatherwork, Soft Toys, Jewellery Making, Lampshade Making, Crochet Work, Pottery, Artificial Flowers, Basketry, Weaving, Knitting and Quilting.

Remember first prize is £10, with bronze plaques and certificates of merit for the runners-up. Judging will take place at the Exhibition and the winning entries will be displayed in a prominent position in glass cases.

Finally with the advent of spring and warmer weather many amateur photographers should get under way with their cameras and send entries for that Baby Snapshot Competition. These should be sent direct to the Judge, Mr. Norton Pratt, 461, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, C.2. The first prize will be a portrait photograph of the winning baby to the value of ten guineas (£10 10s.).

A further competition planned is one to find Scotland's bonniest set of triplets, but more will be told about this later.

Life's Glad Song.

Into the light of every day
Shed on my soul new hope.
And should I, listless, take my way
Or be inclined to mope,
Strike with a red hot sword and wake
My soul to action strong,
That I may step abroad to make
My gift to Life's Glad Song.

Into the dark of every night
Fill me anew with peace,
That I in sleep may find a light
To guide, should others cease.
Pour through my mind the power to be
Glad, keen and gaily strong.
Blend with the truth a will that's free
To help the weary throng.

Into the heat of noonday beams
When noise and rush o'ercome
Send over me sweet cooling streams
Leaven my soul with fun.
Then, in the cool of evening
Air filled by roses' scent,
I'll sit with thoughts close weaving
And for the hour, content.

GRACE PURSGLOVE.

Health Congress Special Postmark.

A SPECIAL POSTMARK for the Royal Sanitary Institute's Health Congress to be held at Bournemouth on April 26th to 29th, 1955, has been approved by the Postmaster General.

The postmark will depict part of the Institute's armorial bearings, and the words, "R.S.I. Health Congress, Bournemouth, Hants," in addition to the usual postal data.

To mark this historic occasion, the Institute also intends to provide a special envelope which will be made available to delegates at the Congress headquarters.

Enquiries in respect of the special "cover" have already been received from collectors in the United States, Canada, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Spain and Italy.

The Health Congress, which has been held annually for nearly 80 years, is attended by approximately 2,500 public health experts from all parts of the world, including representatives from behind the Iron Curtain.

The postmark, incidentally, will be applied only to mail posted at the post office in the Health Congress headquarters situated in the Bournemouth Town Hall.

Course on Anaesthesia.

FIFTEEN PRACTISING ANAESTHETISTS from 11 countries are taking part in a fortnight's course on Anaesthesia, organised for the fourth year by the British Council in association with the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The course is being held in London from February 28th to March 12th.

Members of the course are visiting the operating theatres of leading London hospitals to see demonstrations of every modern method of anaesthesia, including its diagnostic and therapeutic applications, and the whole field of surgery. In the evenings, they are taking part in informal discussions with the demonstrators on questions arising out of the work seen during the day.

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