

duties at local hospitals, which is especially welcomed in those hospitals where there is a shortage of trained nurses.

The value of the contribution which Red Cross nursing auxiliaries are able to make to the hospital service is now recognised to the extent that their help is welcomed, not only for regular duties, but it is also readily enlisted in an emergency. In some hospitals the help of Red Cross auxiliaries enabled wards to be kept open, which would otherwise have had to be closed owing either to sickness among the staff or to shortage of trained nurses. Red Cross nursing auxiliaries supplied the extra help needed to deal with influenza epidemics which struck many public schools during the winter.

The Branches are glad to work in hospitals and establishments where their nursing training is of use, not only for the service which they are able to render but also for the practical experience which they are able to obtain, which has done much to raise the standard of practical efficiency in the Society.

Many Branches report that the nursing side of the Society's work continues to be a source of recruitment to the nursing profession, and many members have begun their general nursing training.

Apart from the duties which Detachment members undertake in hospitals, much regular help is given to District Nurses in caring for the home-bound sick and infirm. This is a most useful service to the community, particularly in rural areas. Many Branches report the numerous calls made upon their members for nursing aid in the home, to old people living alone, to sick people awaiting admission to hospital and to patients discharged from hospital as no longer needing full-time nursing. Red Cross nursing auxiliaries also assist at clinics of various kinds.

Nursing Echoes.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will be held in the afternoon of 27th October, 1955, at Hammersmith House, Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, London, W.12.

THE N.A.P.T. SCOTTISH BRANCH is once again offering four scholarships of £150 each, to enable Scottish Nurses, experienced in tuberculosis work, to spend three months in post-graduate study of tuberculosis in hospitals and clinics in Scandinavia.

The scholarships are as follows:—

- A. Two for registered female nurses working at the time of application in a hospital or clinic in Scotland.
- B. One for a registered male nurse, working at the time of application in a hospital or clinic in Scotland.
- C. One for a Queen's Nurse. Open to a registered female nurse, working at the time of application in Scotland, whose name is on the Queen's Roll of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. Preference will be given to a nurse working in the Highlands.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced nurses should be sent to the Secretary, N.A.P.T. Scottish Branch, 65 Castle Street, Edinburgh, not later than the 15th October, 1955. Candidates should state age, qualifications and previous experience; reasons for wishing to do post-graduate work in tuberculosis; and should affirm their intention to continue in tuberculosis work if awarded a scholarship.

The N.A.P.T. reserves the right, in the absence of suitable applicants in any category, to withhold the scholarship or transfer it to one of the other categories.

West London Hospital Nurses' Prize Giving.

THE PRESENTATION OF medals and prizes to the Nurses at the West London Hospital this year, was indeed an auspicious occasion as it coincided with the completion of the new Nurses' Recreation Hall.

The proceedings opened with the presentation of a lovely bouquet of flowers to Dame Elizabeth Cockayne, D.B.E., by Nurse B. McKechnie, the silver medalist.

Mr. Geoffrey Huddle, chairman of the House Committee, then introduced the Guests of Honour, regretting the absence of the Mayor of Hammersmith, who was unable to attend, but welcomed Councillor and Mrs. Heaks, Deputy Mayor, who had kindly taken his place.

He also regretted the absence of five of the prize winners who were unavoidably absent.

Dame Elizabeth Cockayne, after formally declaring the Hall open, expressed her great pleasure and surprise at the magnificent result of the work, considering the limited space and the disadvantage of the surroundings. It was beyond all expectations.

She always enjoyed these occasions at various hospitals, but the West London had a special place in her heart as she had once been Matron. How conditions had changed since then! Not only in hospitals but everywhere! Welcome indeed were the better conditions, especially the inclusion of practical psychology in the training, to encourage the nurse to understand the patient's point of view; sectional allocation of nurses in the wards in order that nurse and patient should know one another, and combine the personal care and technical knowledge under the best conditions. Our earnest purpose was to keep the old ideals while welcoming new discoveries and technique. In these days of rapid progress, one must Hold On! Keep an open mind and sense of justice. In her present position she had to attend to complaints on the patient side.

Dame Elizabeth recalled the conditions at West London Hospital when she held the post of combined Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor, preparing for State Examinations and giving lectures in the Basement Linen Room!

West London Hospital is very proud of its Chapel. Dame Elizabeth recalled the time when the choice lay between a Chapel or a new Dining Room for the medical staff.

The majority vote was for the Chapel, and the Doctors graciously gave way. There is no obligation for Nurses to attend Chapel, but no doubt the voluntary attendance gave the spiritual aid in maintaining the standard the older Sisters were so anxious to keep. Returning to the subject of the new Hall, Dame Elizabeth said that she had heard the floor was good, and wished the Nurses "happy dancing."

This remark was received with obvious pleasure and appreciative acknowledgement as was the announcement of a gift of a grand piano by Lady Cook on behalf of the Ladies' Association.

Lady Cook spoke of a recent visit to Australia, and while praising their up-to-date conditions, where there is no lack of space, she appreciated the small intimate homeliness of the West London.

Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S., then rose and expressed his thanks to the Nursing Staff for their help and co-operation in his work in the Hospital. Also his regret at the inevitable resignation of Sister Wilmot, after long and devoted service.

He laughingly referred to the time some two or three hundred years ago, when hospitals gave care and treatment to the needy by a staff which did *not* include Doctors.

Principal Sister Tutor made an excellent speech, mentioning among many other improvements, the advantages of practical uniforms of today compared with the old style. Also the Preliminary Training prior to entering the wards. Co-operative training in the nearby Hospitals, with no lectures given in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)