

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRAINED NURSES.

The National Council of Trained Nurses will present a small Exhibition of Nursing Handicrafts, and other items of nursing interest, in the Woman's Kingdom, in the Women's Section of the Children's Welfare Exhibition at Olympia on April 11th to 30th. The Hon. Secretary, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., will be grateful for as much help as possible.

Miss E. M. Musson, President of the Annual Conference of the National Council, to be held at Birmingham in the second week of June, announces that the Conference and Exhibition will be held in the New Central Hall, Corporation Street. It is very central and convenient, as it is only about five minutes' distance from either railway station. Miss Musson will attend the meeting in London on Thursday in this week, a very interesting programme is under discussion, in which, of course, State Registration, and its benefits to the nursing profession, and the public, will find a place.

THE POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

At the last quarterly meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, Miss Clark, Matron of the West Ham Infirmary, brought forward for discussion the question of an increase for ward sisters' salaries, and it was agreed to forward the following Letter to the Secretary of the Local Government Board.

SIR,—At a Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association, held on January 31st, it was agreed that as an Association we should respectfully ask the Local Government Board to give sympathetic consideration to applications of individual Training Schools for an adequate increase in the Salaries of Ward Sisters.

In doing so the Association would urge the following points:

1. That though the demand for nurses is steadily increasing—the numbers of women applying for training is decreasing, and their standard of education and social standing is not up to the same level that it used to be. Our Association feel that it would be a national calamity as well as a serious loss to the Sick Poor if the prestige of the nursing profession were lowered and the care of the sick allowed to fall into the hands of the unrefined and ignorant.

2. The openings for educated women are now far more abundant and remunerative than was formerly the case, consequently the tendency

is for such women to feel drawn to other professions rather than to nursing.

3. Therefore to attract a better type of candidate for training, it is most necessary that the Ward Sisters who may be considered the chief factors in the probationers' practical training, should themselves be picked women, cultivated and capable and able to impart the knowledge which their own training and experience has taught them.

The work of the Ward Sisters is both arduous and responsible, and these posts should be made sufficiently attractive and remunerative to stimulate the ambition of the best nurses to qualify themselves for public work. If the salary commenced at £35, with the possibility of rising to £50 or more, it would enable them to feel that their old age is provided for, and that they might hope to be able to retire on a pension of not less than a pound a week. The present usual salary of £30 to £35 is miserably inadequate and compares most unfavourably with other positions open to women who have given up the best years of their life to qualifying themselves for public work.

It is because we feel that from our position as Matrons and Superintendents of nurses that we have special facilities of judging—not only of the importance of the work to be done by Ward Sisters, but also of the difficulty of securing and retaining the services of the best type of women for these positions—that we would beg the Local Government Board to assist in making these posts more attractive by consenting to a higher and more adequate scale of payment.

We feel that such action would not only benefit the Sisters themselves, but would prove an attraction to suitable women to enter for training, and would have a stimulating effect on the profession at large.

A QUIET DAY.

The Nurses' Missionary League has arranged a Quiet Day for Prayer and Meditation on Tuesday, March 31st, by kind permission of the Rector to be held at Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone. It will be conducted by the Rev. H. R. Anderson, M.A., vicar of St. Luke's, Redcliffe Square, S.W.

6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Holy Communion.

Morning Session, 10-12.30. Subject, "God is Love." Address, "Love in Fatherhood," "Love in Service," "Love in Sacrifice."

Afternoon Session, 2.30-4.15. Address, "Lord, what wilt Thou?" "Lord, I will follow Thee."

Evening Prayer. Address by the Rector, the Rev. E. N. Sharpe, on "Christ's Legacies: His Peace, His Love, His Joy."

Nurses will be free to go in and out as duty requires.

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