

early symptoms, or in the "incipient stage" of insanity. As Dr. Armstrong-Jones points out, the existing law assumes that a person is, or is not, insane, and it takes no notice of the early symptoms, which are most often curable by timely treatment. Moreover, to issue a medical certificate of insanity, from whatever cause, is unfortunately and, through ignorant prejudice, unjustifiably to cast a stigma, not only upon the victim, but also upon those who are related to him, or who may be dependent upon him. In order to avoid such a reproach, delay on the part of the friends as well as reluctance on the part of the patient in applying for the best remedial care is the inevitable result, with consequent injury to the sufferer from the point of view of recovery, for he is meanwhile falling into a condition of chronicity and hopelessness. In order to prevent patients becoming confirmed lunatics through this delay the only alternative is to certify all doubtful cases as insane.

The Council of Charing Cross Hospital, after very careful consideration, have revised the scale of pay for their Nursing Staff, and the new scale is to take effect as from the 1st June.

The following comparison will show the changes that have been made:—

	Old Scale.	New Scale.
Sisters.—Commencing at ...	£30	£35
„ Rising to ...	£45	£50
Staff Nurses.—4th year ...	£26	£26
„ „ 5th year ...	£26	£28
„ „ 6th year ...	£26	£30
Nurses.—1st year ...	£6	£10
„ 2nd year ...	£15	£15
„ 3rd year ...	£20	£20

Although these changes will involve an additional burden on the Hospital's funds of approximately £150 per annum, the Council feel that this expenditure is absolutely justified and that in incurring it they will have the full approval of their friends and supporters.

The dearth of well-trained nurses becomes daily a more serious question for sick people, and there is very little doubt that overwork of those engaged in many institutions is the result. We are glad to note that the Matron of the Southwark Infirmary has been empowered to engage four temporary nurses, so as to enable the regular staff to take their annual leave without excessive hours of work being exacted from those left on duty. In reply to criticism, Mr. McCarthy defended the proposal, and remarked, "If you are going to

quibble about this necessary proposal, you had better close the Infirmary. The women are beginning to find they are overworked."

The difficulty of finding suitable nurses was reported at a recent meeting of the Notts Nursing Federation as becoming greater each year. On many occasions, the annual report stated, advertisements had been inserted in the nursing papers with absolutely no result, and it was understood that this was the case with most of the other county federations. The shortage, which applies to Queen's Nurses as well as village nurses, is attributed to the increase in the number of associations generally, and also to the numerous other posts, such as school nurses, health visitors, and so on, for which nurses are suitable.

The Portsmouth Guardians have come to the conclusion that they cannot pick and choose their probationers, as they have the greatest difficulty in procuring them. On several occasions they have had to advertise for them, a thing unknown in years gone by. In his report on the recent examination of probationers, Dr. C. H. Rippmann, whilst well satisfied with the result of third and second years' nurses, on which he congratulated the Superintendent and Matron, said that the first year's probationers were not up to the educational standard of the nurses when he first examined them some years ago. A Guardian said this lack of education was a thing they all regretted, and Mrs. Kingswell suggested that the Education Committee should appoint examiners (outside the Government examiners) to see that the girls in elementary schools were properly educated.

The Chairman of the Epping Board of Guardians said at a recent meeting that last year £150 was spent in advertising and paying the travelling expenses of new nurses. The House Committee now proposed to increase the salaries of the nursing staff, which would only involve an additional expenditure of £22 a year.

The members of the Highlands and Islands Medical Service Board are at present in Orkney, and have met delegates from public bodies at Kirkwall. Sir John Dewar was accompanied by Lady Susan Gilmour, Hon. Secretary Scottish Branch Q.V.J.I., Dr. Robertson, Dr. Leslie M'Kenzie, and Dr. M'Vail, with Mr. L. M'Quibban, secretary.

Sir John, at the commencement of the meeting, said they were anxious to have the opinions of those coming from the outlying dis-

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