

TRIFLING WITH STATE MONEY.

For months past those engaged in providing district nurses, trained and untrained, have been greatly exercised in their minds as to the nursing of the insured sick. First of all, we were told there was no money for providing members of approved societies with skilled nursing. Then the medical benefit proved greatly handicapped without nursing, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer wisely promised a grant of £50,000 this year, and for the future £250,000 per annum, to provide for training and nursing. That was welcome news. It may prove an immense benefit to poor sick people, yet it may fail to benefit them if wrongly administered. We claim, and shall continue to claim, that State money, for which we are taxed, should be expended upon the advice of experts, and not handed over to associations which have hitherto failed to realise their responsibilities, as Cottage and County Nursing Associations have done, owing to the fact that they are governed entirely by men and women who have not the knowledge, and have therefore no right to define nursing standards, any more than they have to define medical standards. Nevertheless, great efforts are being made by Cottage and County Nursing Associations to obtain a State grant in support of charitable and non-representative organisations, which provide midwives and very insufficiently trained women to nurse the sick in rural districts.

We claim that all element of charity should be eliminated from any Nursing Benefit scheme provided by State funds—in other words, for which the people are taxed—and information as to how the State grant is to be administered has been eagerly awaited.

On July 22nd Mr. Montague announced in the House of Commons that "the Nursing Service referred to will be administered by the Insurance Commissions through the local Insurance Committees," and added, "it is hoped to secure the co-operation of the County Nursing Associations."

It is evident that the administration of Nursing Benefit will have to be very carefully watched if our money is to be spent in providing skilled as against unskilled nursing and the service is to be sufficiently remunerated. To provide a State Nursing Service of practically untrained women—if their midwifery experience is excluded—at the miserable salaries paid to cottage and village nurses is a scandal which must not be permitted. The secretaries and members of Approved Societies must be instructed on this point. Many are trades unionists, and will realise the injustice of any such scheme both for the sick and the nurses. A thoroughly trained nurse should be added at the earliest possible date to each of the four Commissions empowered to organise the Nursing Benefit. At present, although we are taxed to pay enormous salaries for those who compose them, there is not one expert who knows anything of nursing education and organisation on any of

the Commissions. Without such experts it will be a case of the blind leading the blind, and, as usual, the nursing profession will land in the ditch.

Just economic conditions for the nurses must be kept in mind, and not less than £150 should be paid for salary (beginning at £1 a week), and emoluments, with a pension on the Army Nursing Service scale; all Queens' Nurses to be eligible for service on such improved terms.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

York County Isolation Hospital.—Miss A. E. Proctor has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Salford Infirmary and Brighouse Fever Hospital, where she was Deputy Matron. She has also been charge nurse and Assistant Matron at Southampton Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

NIGHT SISTER.

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.—Miss Elizabeth Clark has been appointed Night Sister. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, where she was Sister of the eye wards and theatre, and temporary Night Superintendent. She has also been Night Sister and Ward Sister at St. George's Hospital, Bombay, Sister of an enteric ward at King's Cross Hospital, Dundee, and is at present Dietetic Sister at Duff House, Banff.

SISTER.

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.—Miss Maud Hopton has been appointed Sister on the Drummond Floor, which includes men's and women's surgical wards. She was trained for four years at Charing Cross Hospital and for two years has been Sister of a Medical Ward.

Miss Rhoda Hoff has been appointed Casualty Sister. She was trained for four years at Charing Cross Hospital.

South Western Hospital, Stockwell, S.W.—Miss Ellen Frances Allison has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the St. Marylebone Infirmary, where she gained the first prize, and has been Sister at the Western Hospital, Fulham. Previous to her general training, she was probationer at the Plaistow Fever Hospital.

Miss Daisy Sophia Burgess has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Lewisham Infirmary, and has held the position of Night Superintendent at the Isolation Hospital, Tottenham, and received fever training at the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill.

Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth.—Miss Edith B. Gilbert has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, and the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, W.C., and has been temporary Sister at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR.

Borough of Clitheroe.—Miss Eliza Annie Newman has been appointed School Nurse and

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