

resident medical practitioners, will receive sympathetic consideration. Nurses have already been sent with the help of the Board, and on a temporary footing, to some of the more remote islands, and these provisional arrangements will now fall to be incorporated on a more permanent basis in the general nursing schemes of the Board. The Board will endeavour to utilise to the full the existing nursing organisations, and the services of nurses in the employment of such organisations. There should be in every parish, or group of parishes, a nursing association to act as the managers of the local nursing scheme, to keep alive local interest, and, generally, to see that the nurse duly performs her duties under the direction of the medical practitioner. Larger nursing associations on a county or other basis would serve a most useful purpose in the matter of organisation. By helping to form new nursing areas, or to rearrange existing ones where necessary, and by maintaining a sufficient number of relief nurses, or nurses specially qualified for emergency work, such associations would materially assist the Board in the development of an efficient nursing system throughout their area.

With a view to providing for a more effective general nursing service the Board will endeavour to arrange that the services of nurses employed or subsidised by them, whether directly or through nursing associations, or otherwise, shall be made available to county councils, public health authorities, Secondary Education Committees, school boards, and parish councils in respect of cases for which these bodies may desire the services of a nurse or for whose nursing they may be responsible.

Proper housing accommodation for nurses is a matter to which the Board attach much importance, and they will be prepared to consider the question of providing, or of giving assistance towards providing, houses for nurses in suitable cases. But, in view of the fact that the number of nurses employed in the Highlands and Islands will be considerably increased as the result of the Board's grants, they think that wherever fairly convenient houses can be rented, or suitable lodgings can be procured, the question of the erection of houses should be deferred till any necessary readjustment of districts has been effected, and until experience has shown where the nurse should be stationed for her own convenience and for the convenience of those to whom she will give attendance.

General Conditions under which District Nursing Associations will be eligible to Participate in Grants from the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Fund.

1. The Highlands and Islands Medical Service Board must be satisfied as to:

(a) The constitution, organisation, and management of the Association.

(b) The need for assistance from the Fund, regard being had to the circumstances of the district.

(c) The maintenance of a reasonable local contribution towards the expenditure.

(d) The accounts of the Association.

(e) The efficiency of the nursing service, including arrangements for the supervision of the nurse's work by a duly qualified medical practitioner.

(f) The terms on which nurses are made available for nursing services to the various classes of the community.

2. The Association must, within its present area or such other area as may be arranged, undertake responsibility for the employment, housing, payment of salaries and travelling and other expenses of the nurses, and for the provision of substitutes for them during their absence on holiday or on account of illness.

3. The Association must submit for the approval of the Board a statement of the qualifications of all nurses before their appointment, and a copy of the rules under which they work.

4. The nurses must reside at the centres deemed to be most suitable for the work of their respective districts.

5. The Association must arrange that its nurses shall be prepared to act under the direction of the local medical practitioner, and, in so far as they are qualified and if required by the Board to do so, in the treatment of diseases and defects in school children as disclosed by the system of school medical inspection, in the domiciliary treatment of tuberculosis, the domiciliary nursing of infectious diseases, in maternity and general medical and surgical nursing, and in the nursing of the registered sick poor and old age pensioners:

Provided that where a district nurse is employed in nursing a case of infectious disease treated at home, arrangements shall be made for relieving her of her ordinary duties while she is so engaged if, in the opinion of the doctor in attendance, such an arrangement is necessary in the interests of the community.

6. The Association must keep accounts showing particulars of income from all sources and of expenditure, and, at the beginning of each year or on such date as may be arranged, it must submit to the Board a statement of its accounts for the past year and an estimate, on a form to be supplied by the Board, of its income from all sources and of its proposed expenditure, including any necessary expenses of management.

N.B.—The foregoing regulations are intended to apply mainly to existing nursing associations organised on the basis of a parish or group of parishes and employing, as a rule, one or two nurses, and to new associations formed on a similar basis. Schemes proposed by nursing associations on a larger basis, such as that of a county or district of a county, will be considered individually by the Board.

D.—GRANTS TOWARDS THE PROVISION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES FOR DOCTORS AND NURSES.

Scheme providing for the General Conditions under which Grants will be payable from the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Fund towards

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