

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A USEFUL REPORT.

Report of Enquiry made in 1914 by the National Union of Trained Nurses as to opinions of Matrons on the subject of the instruction of Nurses in Venereal Diseases.

In answer to the accompanying letter written to Matrons of Hospitals and Superintendents of Nursing Institutions, replies were received as follows:—

1. Matrons and Superintendents of Nursing Associations in favour of special instruction and in whose hospital the nurses receive it by lectures and in the wards.—A little more than half.

2. Matrons who approve, but do not give lectures or definite teaching and who leave instruction of nurses to the Ward Sister as occasion may arise.—One-fifth.

3. Matrons who approve, but do not give instruction.—One-seventeenth.

4. Matrons who do not approve or give instruction.—About one-seventh.

N.B.—All these latter, however, acknowledge the need for warning about infection, and so, in a limited degree, belong to class 3.

It will be seen, therefore, that about 40 per cent. of the nurses of the training schools who replied were receiving no instruction or no systematized instruction.

Some writers were in favour of—

A. Scientific and non-sensational teaching during the first year by the Lady Superintendent, and in the third year by the Senior Hon. Physician; this teaching to include the cause of venereal disease, the effect of treatment, the great danger of infection and need of isolation;

or

B. Nurses in the wards having special instruction on the best methods of avoiding infection, and the spread of infection from patient to patient.

Those who think no definite instruction necessary seem to forget that, even if not necessary in hospital, the want of scientific knowledge will be very detrimental when the nurse does private or district work, where there is no senior nurse to give advice, where the doctor does not visit often, and where the early observation of symptoms is of great value.

Suggestions made:—

A. Legislation at once; compulsory notification and isolation hospitals.

B. Post-graduate courses for nurses and midwives.

C. A scientific manual for nurses.

D. That letters should be sent to doctors and superintendents on the great need of instruction.

E. More frankness on the part of a doctor when diagnosing a case.

F. That nurses should report at once all suspected cases, and instruct their patients—if women—on the care necessary.

G. All cases to be sent to separate hospitals.

These suggestions express the opinion of the Matrons and not necessarily those of the N.U.T.N.

The Executive Committee has sent a copy of this Report to the Central Council for combating Venereal Disease, with a recommendation that the authorities of training schools should be urged to give definite instruction as part of their curriculum.

E. L. C. EDEN,
Hon. Secretary.

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

THE VALEDICTORY MEETINGS.

The Valedictory Meetings of the Nurses' Missionary League will be held in University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., to wish God-speed to members who sail for the Mission Field this year, on Tuesday, October 3rd, when members and friends of the League are cordially invited to be present. The following programme is announced:

PROGRAMME.

"THE EVANGELISATION OF THE WORLD IN THIS GENERATION."

MORNING SESSION—10.15 TO 12.30.

"The need of the World at Home." *Chairman:* Mrs. Douglas Thornton.

National Anthem. Prayer for Doctors, Sisters, and all Members throughout the world.

Opening Address: "A Vision of the Need." Mrs. Douglas Thornton.

"Individual Responsibility." Miss L. M. Shann (Sec. Student Volunteer Missionary Union).

Interval.

"Individual Response." Miss M. C. Gollock (Member National Mission Council).

Intercession.

Tea and Coffee and Time for Social Intercourse. 11.15—11.30.

AFTERNOON CONVERSAZIONE, 2.30—5.

Hostesses: Mrs. William Scott, Mrs. Sturge, Miss Haughton and Miss E. M. Smith.

Addresses: "Nursing in Military and Mission Hospitals." Major A. Neve, F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C., T. (Kashmir).

"The Corporate Response of the N.M.L." Miss J. Macfee, B.A.

The afternoon affords special opportunity for getting to know the Sailing Members, those from other Hospitals and Committee Members.

EVENING MEETING—7.30 TO 9.30.

"The need of the World Abroad." *Chairman:* Major W. McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C., T.

National Anthem.

The "Sailing Members" each speak for five minutes.

Lantern views of the hospitals where they hope to work with brief explanations. Miss Richardson.

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