

resolution, which they trust you will take the earliest possible opportunity of bringing under the notice of your Board, namely:—

"That pending the acceptance by the promoters of the *Royal British College of Nursing of the minimum requirements of this Association or any modification thereof agreed to by the Association, Boards of Guardians be advised to withhold their support or approval in any way of the proposals of the said College."

The Council is desirous of supporting the National Association of Poor-Law Officers in their efforts to secure adequate representation of Poor-Law nurses on the Provisional Council of the College, and with this object in view they consider that you would be justified in urging all your nurses to sign the petition requesting that such representation be forthwith conceded.

Yours truly,

HERBERT DAVEY.

The Clerk to the Guardians.

THE SUPPLY OF NURSES COMMITTEE.

As we went to press last week the "Report of an Advisory Committee appointed by the Army Council to inquire into the Supply of Nurses" issued in January last was made public, and we inserted its recommendations. The chief points of interest upon which the Report touches are (1) the appointment of the Committee, (2) its proceedings, (3) Nurses engaged in Public Health work, (4) nurses in poor law institutions, (5) Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, (6) School Nurses, (7) Metropolitan Asylums Board, (8) Civil Hospitals, (9) Trained Nurses, (10) Future Sources of Supply, (11) Conditions of Service, (12) Untrained Nurses, (13) Private Nurses, (14) Conscription and General Organisation of Nurses, (15) General Observations.

For the Committee's Summary of Recommendations on these points we refer our readers to our last issue.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Report deal with the appointment of the Committee and its proceedings.

3. *Nurses Engaged in Public Health Work.*—The Committee do not think that it would be good policy to attempt to draw more nurses from those engaged in Public Health Work under the Local Government Board in Isolation Hospitals, Sanatoria for Tuberculosis, and as Health Visitors.

4. *Nurses in Poor Law Institutions.*—The Committee are convinced that very few nurses can be drawn for military work from this source apart from those completing their term of training.

5. *Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.*—The Committee consider it would be in the highest degree unwise to encourage Queen's Nurses to leave their posts, and that the gain to the wounded would be small in comparison to the loss to the future strength of the nation.

6. *School Nurses.*—Neither the Board of Education, nor the Scotch Education Department feel able to advise or encourage any more school nurses

* No such Corporation exists at present.

to undertake work in military hospitals, and the Committee concur.

7. *Metropolitan Asylums Board.*—The Committee consider that the Board cannot meet its obligations if any more nurses are taken from their hospitals.

8. *Civil Hospitals.*—The Committee have sent out letters of enquiry to about 1,000 civil hospitals in the United Kingdom, including general, special, and infectious. The result shows the following average proportion of trained nurses to beds:—London Hospitals, 1 to 13; Provincial Hospitals (England and Wales), 1 to 24; Scottish Civil Hospitals, 1 to 14; Irish Civil Hospitals, 1 to 20.

9. *Trained Nurses.*—The Committee state that the evidence before them tends to show that the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and the Joint War Committee have found little difficulty in securing the number of trained nurses they require, but many of these have been drawn from other services at home which have now reached the point where further depletion would be calamitous. They estimate that the annual wastage of trained nurses tending military cases is at least 1,400, and in connection with recommendations which they make for more regular leave that a total addition of 1,500 to the strength of trained nurses for military work would be necessary.

10. *Future Sources of Supply.*—The Committee have therefore to contemplate a requirement of 2,900 more trained nurses for the year following the issue of the report.

The numbers of those who in the course of the year will have completed their training in the United Kingdom are estimated at 3,607, and reckoning that two-thirds of these will be available for military service, the estimated number is 2,400, which it will be seen is 500 less than those required.

The number of trained nurses employed per bed for officers averages 1 to 4, and the Committee suggest that this proportion should be reduced to 1 to 6. Also that all small auxiliary hospitals should be restricted to cases of the less serious type, and that no new hospitals of less than forty beds should be opened.

V.A.D.'s AS STAFF NURSES.

The Committee in order to prepare for any great emergencies have enquired from Matrons of war hospitals and voluntary hospitals the number of probationers, including V.A.D. members, who might be qualified to act as nurse under a Sister. The number returned amounted to 5,000. They consider this number may be excessive, but that there is a large and increasing number which should form a useful reserve if the supply of trained nurses should fail.

(To be continued.)

Masseuse: "Have you ever had massage before, Brown?" "Oh, yes; but it was a bit rough. I think it was a lady of independent means who did it."—*Royal Infirmary, Leicester, Nurses' League Journal*

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