

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,560.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1918.

Vol. LX.

EDITORIAL.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT NURSING IN LONDON.

The metropolis has every reason to be proud of its district nurses and the Third Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Central Council for District Nursing in London (of which Sir Arthur Downes is Chairman) to be presented at the Annual Meeting held in the Conference Hall, at the Local Government Board Offices, Whitehall, S.W., on February 26th, is an interesting document. It shows that "the efficiency of the district nursing service, at all times most essential to the public welfare, is especially a matter of importance at the present time. The ministrations of district nurses has enabled numbers of sick and infirm persons to be treated in their own homes, and thus set free a large number of hospital and infirmary beds for the reception of wounded soldiers and sailors. In turn the soldier crippled, or convalescent, or permanently disabled, receives at the same hands the nursing care which his home could not otherwise afford. And not least is the service which the district nurse daily renders in the preservation of child life to which the war has directed the Nation's earnest thought."

The provision for the nursing of whooping cough is so far not so complete as that made for measles, and the least satisfactory progress has been made in regard to ophthalmia of the newborn, but it is gratifying to know that, in response to a request from the Local Government Board, the Metropolitan Asylums Board have decided to provide two hospitals, available for all classes, one on the north, and one on the south side of the Thames.

The Directory of District Nursing and Street Lists for London is now complete,

and should be of much use to those concerned in district nursing and other forms of social service.

The Executive Committee indicate that the work of the Council during the coming year will include several new points of special interest, the most important, and far reaching, being the question of maternity nursing, with its contingent relations to midwifery.

In view of its importance, and of the manifold interests concerned, the Executive Committee have recommended that the whole question should be discussed in a general Conference to be convened for the purpose.

Since the War began the average cost of a district nurse in London has risen from about £110 to about £130 a year. This has pressed hardly on the Associations generally, and, in particular, has left them with a serious increase in the cost of supplying nurses to the London County Council Treatment Centres. The remuneration received for the services of a whole time nurse, in connection with these centres, intended to include travelling expenses, and the provision of dressings—has been at the rate of £100 a year. The County Council at the instance of the Central Council for District Nursing, have promised to raise the remuneration to £115 per annum after March 31st. We hope that the L.C.C. will note the very modest estimate of the cost of a district nurse in London in relation to the salaries of school nurses, who live as a rule by themselves, whereas district nurses frequently live in groups, always a more economical procedure.

The School Nurses are rendering splendid service to the children of London, as well as to the community, and deserve liberal recognition, as a body of skilled and indispensable public servants.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)