

addition, when circumstances permit, extra off-duty and holidays are to be granted.

From July 1st, 1919, a Pension scheme will come into force. Nurses with 25 years' service will be given at least £52 annually upon retirement, and, further, if any member of the nursing staff of not less than ten years' service, through no fault of her own, breaks down in health so as to render her unfit for further work, the Committee may award her such pension or gratuity as they might think fit.

Great changes have been made in the Nurses' conditions at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

To enable the nurses to state their point of view with respect to any matters relating to the conditions and duties of the nursing staff, a Conference was held at the hospital, when representatives of all the grades on the staff, from first-year pupil nurse to Sisters, met the Medical Superintendent, Secretary, and Matron, and presented various points for consideration.

These matters were submitted to the Board in concrete form, with recommendations from the executive officers, and the Board has now given its decision upon various points, which we are sure will be for the benefit of all concerned.

The salaries for fully qualified nurses shall be as follows:—

Sisters, for first year £100, for second year £110, for third year £120; Charge Nurses, £80.

The appointment of Charge Nurses shall be for one year, and if then appointed as Sisters they will serve for a term of three years, at the end of which period they will be eligible for re-appointment for a further term, but need not necessarily be re-appointed.

More leave is to be allowed, and evening leave is permitted without a late pass till 10 p.m.

VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

At a meeting of the National Baby Week Council held on October 15th, Major the Hon. Waldorf Astor was elected chairman in succession to the late Lord Rhondda, and Viscountess Rhondda was elected vice-chairman. In taking the chair, Lady Rhondda proposed the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

That in view of the general and keen support for the proposed Ministry of Health already afforded to the propaganda efforts of the National Baby Week Council, and in view of the acute problems of health

and disease which demobilisation will bring, this Council reiterates its urgent demand upon His Majesty's Government to introduce without delay the Bill for the Ministry of Health into Parliament.

Lady Rhondda referred to the work of her father whilst at the Local Government Board, in urging the introduction of a Ministry of Health Bill as a war measure, and spoke of the opposition which was still being shown among certain vested interests in commerce and in politics. She said that it could not be allowed that such interests should stand in the way of lives. Lady Rhondda gave the opinion that the Ministry of Health would be well advised to get into touch with the women, who were the lay section of the community which took the most vivid interest in all questions of health, and if the Ministry of Health was to be a success it had got both to educate the women of the country and to keep in touch with them. Any Bill which was to achieve everything which the Council asked it should achieve must institute machinery by which women had a large place in the Ministry of Health, and some scheme by which they were kept in close touch with it. Lady Rhondda referred to the excellent propaganda work being done by the Council in London and the provinces to strengthen the hands of the Government in regard to the Ministry of Health.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

On the 15th inst., Mr. Jowett asked the Prime Minister in the House of Commons whether the Government had considered the initiation of legislation to allow women to stand for Parliament; and whether he would give time for debate on a private Member's motion on which the House might record its wishes in this matter?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Bonar Law) replied that in the opinion of the Government this, like similar questions which arise in connection with the Franchise Bill, is one which ought to be left to the House, and that he would arrange to give an opportunity for its discussion.

Mr. Herbert Samuel gave notice of a motion affirming the desirability of a Bill being introduced making women eligible as members of Parliament, which is being debated in the House of Commons as we go to press.

It is understood that the Labour Party have a Bill drafted which will be introduced at once if the opinion of the House indicates a favourable reception. Several women candidates have been selected should the Bill become law.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

QUESTIONS.

November 2nd.—Describe the treatment of fractures by massage.

November 9th.—Give the nursing of a case after removal of kidney, and state the complications that may occur.

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