

### NURSING ECHOES.

It is a hopeful sign of the times that at last the voluntary hospitals are raising the salaries of their nursing staffs, though we have little to say for the claim of high salaries for pupils. The hospitals, if they provide a thorough practical and theoretical training for probationers, the while giving board, lodging, washing and uniform, are giving a valuable return for labour. Where reform is needed is that skilled work shall be better paid, and after certification; and soon, let us hope, State Registration. Staff Nurses, Sisters, and Matrons should receive liberal salaries, emoluments, and pensions, from which they can live fuller and happier lives, and save for old age.

The London Hospital has again raised the salaries of the nursing staff. An increase was made in 1917 to their salaries, amounting to £4,000 a year; the present revision will cost £7,200 in addition. Salaries in future will be: 1st year—£20 for probationers; 2nd year—£25 for probationers; 3rd year—£40 or £45 for nurses; 4th year—£40, £45, or £50 for nurses.

The ward sisters' salaries will be £55, rising to £105, or £110 if they hold the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board. There is also a considerable number of higher posts open to sisters, the salaries of which rise to £160, or to £165 if they hold the Central Midwives' Board Certificate. In addition to this, 3s. 6d. a week is allowed for laundry. All nurses leaving after twenty years receive a pension for life from £60—£110, according to the posts they held on resigning. (To £115 if they hold the Central Midwives' Board Certificate.) In addition to this, full pay is given for a month's holiday per annum, and during sick leave.

How about the Nurses on the Private Nursing Staff? Fees now rank high for the public, and there is a strong feeling amongst the nurses compelled to do private duty in their third year, instead of completing their third year's training in the wards, that the hospital deprives them of far too much of the money they earn. Both the nurses and the public would like to have a clear financial statement on the Private Nursing Department of the London Hospital, and other large Training Schools which profit by nursing labour.

Under a new scheme sanctioned by the Governors of the Middlesex Hospital for raising the salaries and decreasing the working

hours of its nursing staff, the scale will be:—

Massage sister-in-charge .....	£100 to £150
Electrical department sister and night superintendent .....	£70 to £80
Home sisters .....	£65 to £80
Sister midwife .....	£60 to £80
Sister out-patient department....	£55 to £75
Ward sisters .....	£50 to £70
Staff nurses .....	£40

The salaries of probationers will be raised to £16, and those of other nurses in training proportionally. The period of training has been decreased to three years. Additional nurses are to be engaged to enable the working hours to be reduced to 56 a week and the times off duty extended. The immediate additional cost to the hospital incurred by these changes will amount to £1,518 for the first year.

Hospital officials don't in the least know where the money is coming from to pay the cost of these advances, but as it is right that hospital nurses should receive a just wage, they are living in hope that a generous public will provide it.

Recently the Health Committee of the Southampton Corporation reported to that body that they had been in conference with a deputation from the Rotary Club respecting its offer to contribute a sum of £150 per annum to the Borough Council for a period of three years to provide a nurse in connection with the child welfare movement, and also offering to equip a Centre, to be called the Rotary Club Centre, the nurse so provided to wear a distinctive uniform. They further reported that the Medical Officer of Health had suggested that the sum provided could be utilized for the provision of two nurses. They accepted and recommended accordingly the generous offer of the Rotary Club with grateful thanks.

We hope that the Committee of the Club will make it a *sine qua non* that the money shall be applied in accordance with the terms of their original offer, and that it shall not be utilized to pay two nurses a sweating wage.

It is interesting to note that just a month later the application of the Medical Officer of Health for an increase in his own salary, which had been referred back by the Southampton Corporation to the Committee concerned, was under consideration. The Health Committee recommended that the salary of this official should be increased from £700 to £1,000 per annum. The Parliamentary Committee, however, adopted an amendment that the increase should be one of £200, not £300.

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