

Royal British Nurses' Association.

(Incorporated by



Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF MEDICAL AND ALLIED SERVICES.

The Executive Committee of the Royal British Nurses' Association, at its last meeting, instructed the Medical Honorary Secretary to communicate with the Minister of Health and to express to him the great disappointment of the members of the Corporation on learning that no representative of the Nursing Profession had been appointed on the Advisory Committee of Medical and Allied Services. The Committee greatly hope that this omission may be remedied at the earliest opportunity.

NURSING IN PRISONS.

Members of the Royal British Nurses Association will remember that on April 5th, we gave an account in this Journal of a Deputation to the Home Secretary (the Right Hon. Edward Shortt, K.C., M.P.) on March 28th, organised by the Penal Reform League, the object of which was to place before the Secretary of State the need for many reforms in the prison system.

Miss Beatrice Kent represented the Association on that occasion, and supported the movement for having trained women nurses in all prisons, emphasising her demand by allusion to the experience of a nurse personally known to her who was one of two employed last year in Holloway Prison, for a period of four months. The Deputation elicited from the Home Secretary that he was quite in sympathy with the demand for fully trained and suitable nurses for all prisons.

It is with much pleasure that we are able to report that five fully trained Nursing Sisters, all of whom have had experience of active service during the war, are now on duty under the Home Office, at Holloway Prison. The employment of these Sisters, who have been supplied through the Nurses' Re-settlement Committee of the Ministry of Labour, is, at present, we understand, of an experimental nature. Dr. Treadwell, the Chief Commissioner to H.M. Prisons, has taken great interest in this humanitarian scheme.

The Sisters who are no doubt very happy in their work for the prisoners, have an eight hours day, any time beyond this which they may have to spend, owing to the exigencies of their cases,

being always made up to them later. One Sister devotes her time to the venereal cases, and it is the duty of a second to observe mental defectives, and report the result of her observations to the medical officer, a third deals with the surgery cases, the fourth devotes herself to midwifery, and the fifth has charge of the skin cases, from which it would appear, as this Journal has always pleaded, that there is great scope for the services of trained nurses in our prisons. Their work might be usefully extended to preventive nursing amongst all the prisoners. The regulation of the daily functions, the securing of time for their due performance, the supervision of the sanitary arrangements, and many other details in which the influence of a nurse can usefully make itself felt, would all result in a higher standard of health amongst the prisoners and, let us hope, in the development of a *mens sana in corpore sano* in a proportion of the prisoners. How it would (perhaps we should rather say how it does) rejoice the heart of that great philanthropist, Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, to know that under the Home Office, this scheme, pregnant with possibilities for good for the saddest class in the community, has been inaugurated.

ASSOCIATION OF TRAINED NURSES. IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK. NURSERY SCHOOLS.

On Saturday, October 11th, Miss Freere, of the L.C.C., gave a very interesting address on "Nursery Schools" to the above Association, at the rooms of the Royal British Nurses' Association, 10, Orchard Street, W. She knows her subject thoroughly for, as Miss Wise, the Chairman, said, in introducing her to the nurses present, it is really to Miss Freere that we owe the idea which led to the establishment of Care Committees. Miss Freere has the gift of making her subject popular, and the discussion which followed her lecture had to be cut short at last by the Chairman, who recommended the nurses to adjourn for tea and continue their talk under less formal circumstances.

Miss Freere explained that Nursery Schools were placed under the control of the Board of Education, and gave her reasons for maintaining that this was as it should be. The age at which children

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