

COMBATTING VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Fourth Annual Report of the work of the National Council for Combatting Venereal Disease is both interesting and exhaustive.

We learn from the report that at a meeting of Medical Officers of Health and Medical Officers in charge of Venereal Disease Clinics, Mr. Turner, Chairman of the Medical Committee, described the reports prepared by that Committee and approved by the Executive "on the best method of providing early preventive treatment throughout the country." An analysis of the replies to a questionnaire showed that the majority were in favour of such treatment being provided under proper medical supervision rather than by the issue from chemists or local authorities of the prophylactic packet.

At the same meeting Dr. Middleton Martin, Medical Officer of Health for Gloucestershire, gave a brief resumé of the scheme proposed for use in rural districts, and which depended for its success on the hearty co-operation of all medical practitioners. It was proposed that the hospitals should act as county centres, with out-stations in all places having a population of 600 and over. In these out-stations would be combined the maternity and child-welfare centres, the venereal disease and tuberculous clinics, etc. The resident doctors would be attached as staff, and would treat all cases as a matter of routine, calling on the services of specialists at the general hospital when required. There would also be a visiting staff of doctors with special experience of tuberculosis and venereal disease, a travelling masseur, and a visiting staff of trained nurses and orderlies who would give intermediate and early treatment under the doctor's orders. Arrangements might be made for the district nurse to be in residence at the out-station, so that a responsible person would be on the spot to see that things were in order.

The Report also states:—

Nurses.—Early in 1918 the Council had approached all governing bodies of hospitals on the question of adequate teaching to the members of all nursing staffs on the subject of venereal diseases in order to counter any prejudice that might exist against nursing such cases and to secure to the nurses sufficient knowledge for their own protection.

The Council offered either to provide lecturers to undertake such instruction, or, if it would be of any service, to provide syllabuses of courses of lectures. A number of hospitals asked for syllabuses, and in the early autumn

these were issued to every hospital in the country. During the year assurance has been received from 41 hospitals that members of their own nursing staffs shall receive necessary instruction either from their own staff or from lecturers arranged for by the Council. In addition, 18 other hospitals still have the matter under consideration.

Supply of Orderlies and Nurses.—If a large number of clinics are provided where continuous and early preventive treatment is to be available for both men and women, a number of adequately trained men will be necessary. Fortunately, experience obtained in the Army furnishes the country with an adequate supply of men orderlies with the necessary qualifications.

Many applications for employment from orderlies are received at Headquarters and referred to the Medical Officer of the district in which they wish to serve.

There appears to be a distinct shortage of nurses with sufficient experience and training.

HONOURS FOR NURSES.

ROYAL RED CROSS.

The King held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace on July 10th, and decorated the following ladies:—

Royal Red Cross.

FIRST CLASS.

Sister Agnes Taylor, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve; Jessie, Mrs. Laurie, British Red Cross Society; and Miss Emma Pease, Canadian Army Nursing Service.

Royal Red Cross.

SECOND CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Assistant Matron Gwendolen Lardner, Sister Flora Browning, Sister Mary Blamire-Brown, Sister Evelyn Jones, Sister Marie Lutwick (also received the Military Medal), and Staff Nurse Lucy Nullis.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.—Sister Mary Mathewson.

Voluntary Aid Detachment.—Miss Hilda Clarkson and Miss Mary Thomas.

Canadian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Annie Hayhurst.

French Red Cross.—Miss Mary Marrow.

Albert Medal.

Miss Alice Batt, Voluntary Aid Detachment.

On October 1st, 1918, a fire broke out at No. 36, Casualty Clearing Station, at Rousbrugge, Belgium, and quickly reached the operating theatre, where the surgeon was performing an abdominal operation. The lights went out, and the theatre was quickly filled with smoke and flames, but the operation was continued by the light of an electric torch. Miss Batt continuing her work of handing instruments and threading needles with steadfast calmness, thereby enabling the surgeon to complete the operation. Miss Batt afterwards did splendid work in helping to carry men from the burning wards to places of safety.

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