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## EDITORIAL.

### THE TRAINING OF HEALTH VISITORS.

We refer in another column to the Regulations just issued by the Board of Education for the Training of Health Visitors, which have been forwarded to Local Authorities with a covering letter by Sir Robert Morant, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

The letter states that the Minister of Health is desirous of inviting the attention of Local Authorities, and others concerned in maternity, child welfare, and other departments of the public to the important Regulations just made by the Board of Education, after consultation with the Ministry of Health, for the payment from that Board, of grants-in-aid of the training of women to become Health Visitors.

#### A SPECIAL COURSE FOR HEALTH VISITORS.

From the beginning it has been recognised that, when circumstances permitted, it would be necessary that a special course for Health Visitors generally, should be prescribed. Now that the time seems opportune for the institution of such a course, the Ministry of Health have, says Sir Robert Morant, welcomed, and have been glad to co-operate in, the action of the Board of Education, as the Department responsible to Parliament, for the provision of education and training, in framing regulations defining the terms and conditions which should govern the disbursement of Exchequer grants-in-aid of the provision of efficient courses of training for future Health Visitors.

#### DURATION OF COURSES.

The Regulations of the Board of Education provide for two courses:—

1. A course extending over two years—both theoretical and practical—for persons of 18 years of age and over, who do not possess any substantial knowledge or experience of a special nature likely to be of value to them in their future work. The Board lays stress on the fact that if such students are to obtain any sufficient advantage from their course they must have received a good previous education.

The minimum age for admission has been fixed at 18 because it is essential that girls should be able to proceed direct to the course immediately on completing a full course at a secondary school. We are glad to note that the Board of Education recognise that students who are only 20 years of age on the completion of their course will not generally be sufficiently experienced or mature at once to take posts of responsibility. It is suggested that they may desire to take the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, or they may, in the first instance, take posts of limited responsibility in Infant Welfare Centres.

2. A course extending over one year for fully trained nurses, or for those who have taken a degree course at a university.

No courses of training will be recognised unless the Institution is in a position effectively to control the whole of the students' course, or, as a rule, unless they are conducted by, or in close association with, a University Institution. It is considered that free intercourse with other classes of students, such as is provided in a University Institution, is of special importance to future Health Visitors.

#### A RECOGNISED CERTIFICATE NECESSARY.

In view of the great importance of securing the appointment of properly trained persons as Health Visitors, and of the enlarged opportunities that will arise under the developments just described, the Ministry of Health have now decided that, in cases requiring Government sanction and grant, the Ministry will require that all women appointed for the first time as Health Visitors, on and after a date, of which due notice will be given, must have obtained the certificate described in the Regulations of the Board of Education, with or without other qualifications. Women intending to enter the profession in the future are therefore advised to take a course of training at one of the Institutions recognised by the Board of Education, who will announce a list of such institutions.

In conclusion, Sir Robert Morant states that Dr. Addison desires, as Minister of Health,

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