

strongly to emphasise the necessity of securing that, as far as practicable, only those women should be appointed to salaried posts for the important functions comprised in health visiting, who possess a good general education, followed by an efficient course of special training in an institution approved by the Board of Education under the new Training Regulations.

The amount of the grants now being paid annually from the Ministry of Health to Local Authorities in aid of their expenditure on health visiting and other elements of their maternity and child welfare schemes is rapidly increasing, and Parliament is, in fact providing virtually one half of what is spent locally in this field of work. He points out the responsibility of the Ministry of Health for the proper expenditure of these large and increasing Exchequer subsidies, and that it is incumbent upon it to take all reasonable steps to secure the adoption of every practical measure for raising the standard of much of the existing work, which has been, in some places, inevitably of a somewhat indifferent character during the early years of its development.

A WORD TO NURSES.

Those who claim that Health Visiting is the work of trained nurses, should note that the position is in their own hands. If they are on the alert, and take the one year's course at once, they will be eligible for Health Visitors' posts a year before the students required to take the two years' course have completed their training. Having secured posts, it will be for them to retain this field of work for nurses by demonstrating their value in these positions.

CURRICULUM FOR HEALTH VISITORS.

The Ministry of Health having decided that all persons hereafter to be recognized as health visitors should have been through a special course of training, the Board of Education, in consultation with the Ministry, have prepared regulations setting out the conditions for such training. Provision is made for the recognition of two types of course—namely, a full course of two years' duration, intended for ordinary students, and a shortened course of one year's duration for trained nurses and other persons already possessing substantial knowledge or experience.

With respect to the full course, 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 on leaving a secondary school. Recognizing that students who enter at this age will only be 20 on the completion of their course,

it is expected that they will often desire to take a further course of training, such as that for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, or they may in the first instance take posts of limited responsibility in infant welfare centres or elsewhere.

It is generally agreed that this course should provide for both theoretical instruction and practical training, probably in about equal proportions. The first subject mentioned is that of elementary physiology, which is set forth as the only reliable basis for instruction in the other subjects of the course. The health visitor need not be a skilled cook, but she should, in the course of her visits, be competent to advise in regard to dietaries (especially for children), facilities for cooking, household economy, and domestic arrangements.

A course of hygiene is also contemplated, and it may be found desirable to extend the syllabus to cover generally the duties performed by a sanitary inspector, though certain of them will seldom be discharged by a health visitor. General instruction is also to be given in the characteristics, early symptoms, and various distinctive indications of infectious and communicable diseases.

A feature of the instruction is that relating to maternity and infant and child welfare. The aim should be to give the student such a knowledge of maternity and ante-natal conditions as will enable her to assist the medical officer at consultations and clinics, and to advise the mother as to the carrying out of his instructions. Infant and child welfare should be fully dealt with. Elementary economics and social problems are also to be studied by the students, as, it is pointed out, health visitors cannot adequately perform their duties unless they appreciate the conditions of life of the children and their parents in the district in which they work.

As to the practical work it is suggested that the greater part of the time devoted to this should be given to continuous attendance at institutions concerned with infant and child welfare. Where practicable, however, arrangements should be made for students to spend a part of the period in a maternity or children's hospital, a children's observation ward, a day nursery, or other similar institution. Examinations will be carried out by a special examining body and diplomas issued to students who have completed an approved course of training and passed their examination.

Provision is made for the payment of annual grants. The total payable on account of a student will be £40 for a full course, and £20 for a shortened course.

"We are receiving much interesting information concerning the work of the "Save the Children Fund," 329, High Holborn, W.C. 1, which is endeavouring to fight the famine, and the various evils arising therefrom in so many countries, as a result of the war. It was through this fund that we received the interesting interview with Miss Willis, published in our issue of July 19th, concerning "Serbia's Sufferings."

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