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EDITORIAL.

**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT
NURSING IN LONDON.**

The Central Council for District Nursing in London, which is holding its Annual Meeting on February 26th in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Victoria Embankment, fulfils a very useful function in systematising and equalising the district nursing service of the Metropolis. Its Council is composed of representatives of the various interests, religious, philanthropic and official, concerned with District Nursing, with Mr. E. B. Turner as its Chairman. The Annual Report, submitted in draft, for the year 1919, makes several interesting announcements.

The Executive Committee went carefully into the question of District Nurses' salaries, as instructed by the last meeting of the Council, and fixed a minimum standard rate to be paid by all Associations participating in the distribution of grants through the Council (£50 clear in the case of a resident nurse, and not less than this sum in the case of a non-resident nurse; over and above a reasonable allowance paid in consideration of board and lodging. £115 has been taken to represent the last sum).

Among the sections of the community in need of assistance at the present time are, the Council states, the so-called "new poor," and it is hoped to take effective action to provide "visiting nurses" for persons of limited income during the coming year. Sir R. Douglas Powell, who drew attention to this need in the press, has consented to join the Council.

A Panel of Nurses willing to undertake temporary work has been formed, and thirty-one nurses have been entered on the panel, and are ready for employment.

In view of the special needs of the Associations, the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities have increased their Annual Donation

from £1,000 to £2,000. The Council further announces that in view of the announcements in the press in regard to the devotion of some of the surplus funds of the British Red Cross Society to Nursing, the Executive Committee made strong representations to the Director for the County of London, on behalf of the Metropolitan Nursing Associations, and have been informed that the sum of £10,000 will be entrusted to the Council for distribution, consideration being specially given to the work done on behalf of ex-service men.

The Insurance Committee of the County of London has also made a contribution of £500 for distribution, "on the understanding that every effort will be made by the Central Council to ensure that insured persons in London will be provided with nursing treatment and incidental advantages." It is accordingly proposed that "arrangements be made with the District Nursing Associations for securing the provision of home nursing services for insured persons, and that negotiations be continued with Approved Societies in order to secure contributions from their funds in respect of the nursing of their members."

Through the liberality of the City Parochial Foundation, which has granted a sum of £100 for the training as midwives of nurses in District Nursing Associations affiliated to the Council, it has been enabled to allocate four bursaries of £25, two being given to the Metropolitan Federation of Queen's Nursing Associations, one to the Ranyard Nurses, and one to the unaffiliated Associations. The candidates receiving these bursaries will not necessarily have to practise as midwives, but they must act as maternity nurses in London for at least two years. The Council has been informed that the same help will be forthcoming in the ensuing year. There is thus an opportunity for much usefulness before the Council.

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