

the nine months of training given under this scheme is just *one quarter* of the minimum demanded for qualification of a nurse. We hope the nursing societies will press upon the Commissioners the need for developing this scheme until we have a service of fully trained nurses in our prisons, not of wardresses with "a little knowledge."

We heartily endorse this expression of opinion, and have no doubt that as soon as safe and efficient nursing standards have been defined by the General Nursing Councils, that the Home Secretary will avail himself of the services of Registered Nurses to care for the sick in prisons. Only we must not imagine that general hospital training alone will suffice for this very special work. We look forward in addition to a course of very special instruction being available for those nurses who desire to qualify themselves for service amongst a class of patients who require peculiarly intuitive and sympathetic care upon the part of their attendants and nurses. Very picked women possessed of psychic force must be encouraged to labour in this environment—the average, wholesome, high-spirited animal is not enough.

Captain St. John, Hon. Secretary of the Penal Reform League, in a paper read before the Women's Institute, quotes from a report of the Medical Superintendent of the Chicago House of Correction—a model of its kind—as follows:—

"The proper care of prisoners, and the remedying of bodily defects through such treatment as modern surgery and medicine can give will decrease the prison population. There is not a day that we do not receive unfortunates who are compelled to beg or steal because of their inability to earn a living on account of some physical infirmity, which is readily cured by proper surgical or medical treatment.

The Chicago House of Correction to-day is looked upon by the police department, the judges, and part of the public, as a city emergency hospital and sanatorium for all the alcoholics, drug habitués, epileptics, chronic incurables, cripples, blind and helpless beggars, cranks, perverts, and general mental and moral defectives who require special medical and surgical care. Among the cases which have been sent to us as alcoholics, we have found unfortunates suffering from skull fractures, syphilis, softening of the brain, delirium of pneumonia, brain tumours, acute dementia, and other forms of insanity."

The Kingston-on-Thames Guardians have decided that the salary of the Matron to be appointed for the Infirmary is to commence at

£100 per annum, rising £10 yearly to a maximum of £140, with the usual war bonus.

We do not consider this salary sufficient for a Matron at an infirmary containing 600 beds, especially with the decrease in the value of money. Many mechanics make double the amount.

We are glad to note, however, that the Guardians are going to lessen the very excessive hours of work now in force for the nurses, upon the suggestion of Dr. Davies, the Medical Superintendent, who proposed that the present hours of day nurses should be reduced from 77 per week to 50½ hours, with one day's rest in seven, half-day on Sunday and two hours daily off duty on other days; and the night nurses' hours reduced from 80½ to 69 hours and one night off duty given each week. In order to carry out these proposals an additional staff of ten nurses will have to be employed.

Miss Sybil Drummond, of 69, Grosvenor Street, W., bequeathed £100 each to Nurse Dunghinson, of Folkestone, Nurse Woosey, and Sister Parke, of Beaumont Street, W.

SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

We hope there will be a great muster of members at the general meeting of the above Society, to be held on January 8th, at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., at 4 p.m.

Don't forget that the only object of the Society was to obtain an Act of Parliament for the Registration of Nurses, and that this great object has been attained.

ARMY NURSING NOTES.

VICTORY MEDAL RIBAND.

PRELIMINARY ISSUE TO BE MADE.

An Army Council Instruction just issued states that a preliminary issue of the Victory Medal Riband will now be made officially to those entitled to the medal. The riband will be issued to *personnel* still serving by commanding officers and heads of departments. Demobilised members of the nursing services should make individual application as follows:—

Members of Q.A.I.M.N.S.—To the Secretary, War Office (A.M.D.4), Cornwall House, Stamford Street, E.C. 1, giving particulars of service.

T.F. Nursing Members.—To the Secretary, War Office (T.V.4), 80, Pall Mall, S.W. 1.

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