

had an interview with the Minister of Health and placed their case before him for representation on the General Nursing Council. The Minister took a very definite stand that he was not prepared to elect persons representing particular societies or organisations in the nursing world. Complications, it was suggested, would ensue as other bodies would have equal claims. As a result of their representations, one of their nominations, Miss Yapp, was accepted. Miss Yapp was co-opted a member of the Nurses' Sub-Committee the previous evening, when the question of the organisation of Poor Law nurses throughout the country was discussed. The Association had recognised the claim of nurses for organisation could not be met unless some steps to form them into separate sections were taken. Nursing sections had been formed in various Branches, and the Committee had decided to extend their operations in this direction.

Sir Napier Burnet and Sir Arthur Stanley are touring the provinces in support of the voluntary hospitals. Speaking at a conference at Lincoln under the auspices of the Joint Council of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem Sir Napier Burnett said hospitals up and down the country to-day were failing to get a sufficient number of probationer nurses to train, and he hoped people who had a true spirit of nursing would come forward and undertake the work.

So do we; but so long as the Joint Council pushes V.A.D.'s into positions which should be reserved for trained nurses, we fear its influence is all to the bad.

At a conference at Birmingham, in reply to questions, Sir Arthur Stanley mentioned the future status of Voluntary Aid Detachments. A conference had been sitting at the War Office, at which the V.A.D.'s were represented. They reported to the Army Council some little time ago, but an answer had not yet been received. An answer was being pressed for. It might be taken as certain that the V.A.D.'s would remain part of the Territorial Force, and their raising and training would probably be left to the two societies. He thought the V.A.D.'s would be encouraged to take part in the Red Cross peace work.

As a class, V.A.D.'s have shown very plainly since the war that they have no intention whatever of conforming to the arduous training demanded by the hospital schools to qualify as trained nurses; and if they may not enjoy preferential treatment—especially with the dis-

tribution of honours—they are "not for it." The very large majority of these young women have no more interest in sick women and children who require care out of the limelight now, than they had before the war.

The matron and assistant nurses at Abergavenny workhouse have resigned as the guardians refused to increase their salaries.

In protesting against the action of the House Committee in declining to grant the nurses an interview, the Rev. O. F. Walters said there had been a lack of courtesy. The least they could do was to listen to what the staff had to say.

Inquiries are to be made on behalf of the board as to salaries paid at other workhouses.

Poor Law Guardians have no right to adopt this arrogant attitude towards responsible public servants, and no doubt they will have a rude awakening when they attempt to appoint a new nursing staff.

A trained nurse, discussing the shortage of candidates for training as nurses in general hospitals, in the *Newcastle Chronicle*, writes:—

"Having been asked many times why there is such a shortage of candidates for training as nurses in general hospitals, I feel that an advertisement for a health visitor for the City of Leeds gives one excellent reason. The advertisement runs thus:—

"The salary will be according to qualifications and experience. Grade 1: Certificate of three years' training in a general hospital, C.M.B. and sanitary inspector's or health visitor's certificates, £189 4s., rising by annual increments of £10 to £213; Grade 2: C.M.B., and sanitary inspector's or health visitor's certificate, £181 5s., rising by annual increments of £5 to £200."

"Value of certificate of three years' training in a general hospital, £7 19s., rising to £13. Comment is needless."

It is indeed!

At a meeting at Halesowen of the Stourbridge and Halesowen Hospital Committee, the Matron presented a special report on the difficulties of properly staffing the institution.

For months past she has been advertising for nurses and probationers, but without success, and she suggested an alteration in the scale of salaries, whereby an increase of about £10 per annum might be made.

The Chairman (Mr. J. A. Tate), said the suggestion of the matron would mean a yearly increase of between £200 and £300, and the rates at present were 17s. in the £, and there was a likelihood of this increasing to 21s. in the £.

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