

marises the present conditions in many localities, and if not improved, will account for a still further shortage of skilled nurses for work in districts:—

"The County Superintendent Nurse, Miss Jane Brazendale, resigned and left the island at the end of August, and a successor was not obtained until near the end of the year, when Miss Sarah Elizabeth Bailey was appointed. She began work at the beginning of 1920, but as she understood that a bicycle would be provided for her use, and as she found that she was required to find her own machine, and the Committee were unwilling to provide her with one, she resigned immediately. Her services could have been retained had this provision been made for her. In consequence, before seeking a successor, your Committee wisely decided to raise the salary by £25 per annum, to cover the cost of uniform, cycle, and laundry, and Miss Beatrice Mary Johnson was appointed and began work on May 1st, 1920.

"Nurses as a class are terribly underpaid, and a movement has been inaugurated to raise all round their standard of remuneration. Take a County Superintendent Nurse, for example. She is required to be a lady of good education and great experience, of mature years, of at least three years' hospital training, with special training and qualifications in midwifery, and in district work, be physically active, able to cycle, must enjoy good health, be able to address meetings of all classes of society, and have command and oversight over a large body of trained nurses and midwives. She is thus not only perhaps of higher standing than a head teacher of an ordinary elementary school, but has more responsible duties and commands a bigger staff probably than any very large county head schoolmaster or head schoolmistress.

"And what are the conditions under which even an ordinary trained nurse and midwife works, compared with those of a school teacher? She has longer hours work in a day, sometimes twenty-four hours' work or more without a stop in difficult and prolonged cases, seven days work a week, no regular meal-times, fewer holidays, heavy laundry expenses, a uniform to provide, and no gratuity to look forward to after a life of great usefulness and importance to the community, nor yet any pension, either for old age or if broken down in health. And her rate of pay is little more than half what is paid to a certificated assistant teacher in an elementary school. Even if she subsequently attains the exceptionally high standard of qualifications required of an experienced County Superintendent Nurse, the salary she can expect is still less than that of an ordinary assistant elementary school teacher, and without also any retiring allowance or pension for broken health or old age.

"Such a state of affairs ought to be altered without delay.

"Your whole-time nurses at Cowes, East Cowes, and Sandown continue to do good work that is much appreciated in their localities.

"Sister C. M. C. Rogers acted as part-time health visitor for Newport from February until

December, when she resigned, whereupon the Newport Nursing Association undertook to allow one of their nurses to act as part-time Newport health visitor, and to take charge of the Newport Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre as from January 1st, 1920. When disengaged, this Association's other nurses assist at the Welfare Centre also."

MIDWIVES.

From the following paragraphs midwifery amongst the poor in the Island needs bringing up to date:—

"There are thirty-three midwives practising in the Island, all of whom have received a certain amount of training, and only one of this number is on the register, through being a *bona fide* midwife, engaged in practice at the time of the passing of the Midwives Act, 1902, and not having passed a qualifying examination giving admission to the Midwives' Roll.

"Eighty-four official routine surprise visits of inspection have been paid to them during the year by your County Medical Officer, apart from visits paid by the County Superintendent Nurse, and an inspector from the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute of Nurses."

The economic conditions of district nurses and midwives, indeed, should be improved without delay.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Ministry of Health and the Scottish Board of Health are, it is officially stated, prepared to receive applications from voluntary hospitals for grants in respect of payment of duty involved by the use of duty paid spirits on drugs containing duty paid spirit for medical and surgical purposes, in these hospitals during the year 1919.

Great interest is being shown by industrial circles in the proposal of St. Mary's Hospital to set up a Chair of Industrial Medicine.

It is proposed to train doctors in the care of the human machinery, much as engineers are trained to look after the machines in factories. The result will be a department having the welfare and health of our working community as its special care. America has now six separate Chairs of this subject, which is assuredly destined to an important place in industrial development.

Consequent on Mr. H. Seymour Berry's gift of £10,000, important temporary extensions to Merthyr General Hospital have been commenced.

WEDDING BELLS.

Miss Conway Gordon, late French Flag Nursing Corps, has been married to a Frenchman, and is in the South of France, "radiantly happy." A real nice ending to her fine services to France.

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