

QUEEN'S NURSES.

The Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses met at 58, Victoria Street, on Wednesday, July 21. In the absence of Sir Harold Boulton, Sir W. Cameron Gull presided.

A message was read from Her Majesty Queen Alexandra congratulating "the Council, and all those associated with them, upon the marked success of the great and far-reaching work which is being carried on by all of the many branches of the Institute."

A report was received from the Executive Committee showing most satisfactory progress. A large number of applications for affiliation have been received, but there is still a serious shortage of Queen's Nurses and particularly of those who are willing to practice midwifery.

It was reported that, at a Conference of representatives of the affiliated associations in England and Wales, held the previous day, a recommendation that the salaries and allowances of the Queen's Nurses should be substantially increased was enthusiastically received, and in future the minimum rates will be a clear commencing salary of £63, rising £3 annually to £75, with further increases according to the qualifications of the Nurses and the work undertaken. These are the minimum salaries, and Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Senior Nurses will be paid at correspondingly higher rates. The minimum allowance for board and personal laundry will be 25s. per week, while £10 per annum will be given for uniform. In addition to this, the Nurses must be provided with two furnished rooms with fire, light and attendance.

Every effort is being made to improve the conditions under which the Queen's Nurses work, and it is felt that if the scope and attractiveness of district nursing were more fully realised, many more nurses would be led to enter this branch of the profession.

The financial question is causing the Council great anxiety, and it is only with the help of several special contributions, including two legacies, that it will be possible to carry on the work to the end of this year.

We are glad to note that Queen's Nurses are at last beginning to be estimated at their true value, and receiving some of the consideration which is their due. These highly-trained Nurses are engaged in nursing in its truest sense, and are generally of the type which are singularly free from material instincts. All the more reason they should be treated with justice—if not with generosity. Whatever evolution the nursing of the community may take under our new dispensation—the Ministry of Health—the work of the Queen's Nurses will be found indispensable. They may be incorporated into a State Service, but their high standard of training and efficiency must be the ultimate standard of the people's nurses. If

midwifery is included in a nursing service, it must be of sound quality, and thoroughly well paid—not the ill paid day and night work which shatters the nervous system of the most robust.

THE FUTURE PROVISION OF MEDICAL AND ALLIED SERVICES.

The Interim Report of the Council on Medical and Allied Services, and the First Report of the Welsh Consultative Council, presented to Parliament by command of His Majesty, are extremely interesting.

REFERENCE.

The Reference to the English Council by the Minister of Health was:—"To consider and make recommendations as to the scheme or schemes requisite for the systematised provision of such forms of Medical and Allied Services as should, in the opinion of the Council, be available for the inhabitants of a given area."

The Welsh Reference is the same with the addition of the words "in Wales" after "systematised provision."

It is noteworthy that while the English Council consists of twenty members, and includes no nurse or midwife, although nursing and midwifery are dealt with in the Report, the Welsh Council has thirty members, and includes Miss Lena Crowther, Superintendent of the South Wales Nursing Association, and Mrs. Breeze, member, and Miss A. M. Davies, Hon. Secretary, of the North Wales Nursing Association.

NEW AND EXTENDED ORGANISATION RECOMMENDED.

The English Council report to the Minister of Health that the organisation of medicine has become insufficient, that the general availability of medical services can only be effected by new and extended organisation, distributed according to the needs of the community, and that this organisation is needed on grounds of efficiency and cost, and is necessary alike in the interest of the public and of the medical profession; further, that any scheme of services must be available for all classes of the community, though in using the word "available" they do not mean that the services are to be free.

The Council classifies the services in the scheme which it outlines as those which are Domiciliary as distinct from those which are Institutional, and those which are Individual as distinct from those which are Communal.

It states that Domiciliary Nursing is an essential part of a Health Service, and that "this need, so strongly felt, has led to a variety of earnest efforts to meet it by various voluntary nursing associations. These associations are mainly supported by voluntary subscriptions, by fees, and by contributions from public authorities and societies. Concentration of effort is aimed at by the affiliation of district associations to County

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)