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**EDITORIAL.**

**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR DISTRICT NURSING.**

The Annual Meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, held under the presidency of Sir William Collins in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, E.C., on February 28th, considered many interesting subjects. The most important business transacted was the decision of the Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to develop a scheme of visiting nursing.

The Executive stated that it appears clear that services rendered by District Nursing Associations should be limited to those who cannot pay the full fees necessary to put the scheme on to a profit-earning basis, but that it is, nevertheless, certain that a large number of cases fall below this level, and the Nursing Council consider that a scheme, or schemes, might usefully be drawn up for London districts for nursing, in their own homes, those who cannot be called sick poor, but cannot pay full fees.

For those for whom the difficulty is one of accommodation for the nurse rather than of fees, the Executive suggested that some organisation might be devised by which nurses should live together in small communities in various parts of London, and do visiting nursing. It is estimated that the weekly earnings of the nurse, with a due and manageable number of patients, should be from four to six guineas a week at least, and if each nurse contributed about thirty shillings a week for board and lodging she would have the remainder of the £3 3s. for personal expenses, travelling, dress, washing, &c. The margin beyond this amount could be reserved for insurance, sick fund, &c., and after these claims were satisfied any excess might be divided as a bonus at the end of the year in some proportional manner agreed upon.

On this point we would only say that we consider the nurse should receive the whole of her earnings, and apportion her expenditure as she chooses, undertaking, of course, to pay an agreed sum for board and lodging, which 30s. would not cover if any degree of comfort, and plentiful food, is supplied.

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive that the attention of the Training Schools for Nurses should be drawn to the large amount of additional instruction needed before a fully trained nurse is equipped for district work, and resolved to communicate a note to the General Nursing Council for consideration in connection with the training of nurses. We believe that the General Nursing Council has already under consideration the question of alternative curricula for registration in the future.

It was resolved that it be a condition of a grant from the Council that the minimum salary in the case of a resident nurse shall not be less than £63 clear in a district home, and in the case of a non-resident nurse not less than £63 clear over and above a reasonable allowance for board and lodging, uniform and laundry.

It was agreed that it be an instruction to the Executive Committee to consider the need for, and desirability of, an appeal to the public for funds in aid of District Nursing in London, and to confer with the Q.V.J.I. in regard to securing contributions from Approved Societies.

Mr. Pennant suggested that the Approved Societies might give nursing as one of their additional benefits through the Societies affiliated in the Central Council for District Nurses in London, and through the County Nursing Associations in the country.

We hope that in approving any scheme for the nursing of insured persons, the Ministry of Health will make the condition that the nurses employed must be registered nurses.

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