

Register is open, and for "Intermediate Nurses" until "Future Nurses" have had time to complete the three (not four) years' training set forth; and so far, the number of beds for training in voluntary hospitals and infirmaries in the future has not been defined—that will be done when Rules for "Future Nurses," who must pass a State Examination to be eligible for registration, are considered and agreed between the General Nursing Council and the Minister of Health.

We hope the Devonport Board of Guardians will not distress themselves and spread rumours which are not according to fact. They have nothing to fear if they provide systematic training according to the schedule. The first aim of the General Nursing Council is to provide efficient nursing for the sick, and that can only be done by taking into consideration the needs of the national health in its various phases and helping hospitals to contribute towards it.

It is grievous to learn that the financial position of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses is most precarious, for the work of the Queen's Nurses is deeply valued from one end of the country to the other.

Recently the Annual Meeting of the Scottish Council of the Q.V.J.I. was held in Glasgow, and was preceded by a Conference of District Nursing Associations affiliated to the Institute.

Mr. John Pitman, in submitting the financial statement, said the financial position was very serious. The expenses had been going up by leaps and bounds since the war began, and there was no chance at present of decreasing them very materially. Last year the ordinary income was £4,519, and the ordinary expenditure £10,686. The demand for nurses throughout Scotland was so great that the Institute was now training 83 nurses as against 50 before the war. The Institute had on October 15th only £8,800 invested, barely sufficient capital to carry on the current year.

A discussion on the Scottish Council's proposal regarding the pension fund, and on the position of nurses under the Unemployment Insurance Act was opened by Major Cadell, who said that in 1913 they had instituted a pensions scheme, but it had not been responded to by the Associations or the nurses. The nurses now got £78 a year, at the outside, and they had no opportunity of saving. They had worked loyally, and the last thing the Council wished to do was to leave them in the lurch. It would be a great hardship for Queen's Nurses to have

to pay unemployment insurance, and the only way to get out of it was by having a pension fund that would satisfy the authorities. He asked the Associations to give them £2 a year for the pension fund, and this was agreed.

At the Annual Meeting of subscribers and friends, at which Sir Donald MacAlister presided, the report stated that the number of applications from fully trained nurses for district and midwifery training had greatly increased, the supply being largely drawn from those recently demobilised—mostly thoroughly experienced women, capable of producing the highest type of Queen's Nurse.

The Chairman spoke in the highest terms of the work of Queen's Nurses, saying that they had the confidence and sympathy of the whole medical profession and of the public.

Dr. Madeleine Archibald said they heard a great deal about grandiose health schemes, and it seemed strange that the Ministry of Health so frequently selected its advisers from members of the medical profession not closely acquainted with the routine of industrial practice. She advocated a committee of panel doctors and district nurses who would go to the crux of the whole question and indicate the solution. No scheme would succeed without close co-operation between doctors and nurses. Industrial practice would be a nightmare if it were not for the help of the Queen's Nurses, and in most instances, treatment would be hopelessly inadequate without them.

At a meeting of the Cornwall Joint County Committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society at Truro, it was decided that, with certain exceptions, the entire work of the two societies should be controlled by the Joint County Committee.

In the report adopted, it was agreed that nursing units and Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments should be employed in peace time (a) at Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres under the supervision of medical or nursing authority; (b) in giving assistance to district nurses under similar conditions; (c) in visiting tuberculosis cases under the direction of the tuberculosis officer; (d) in supplementing the staff of voluntary hospitals and nursing homes; (e) in attendance upon masseurs and masseuses at orthopædic clinics organised by the Joint County Committee on behalf of the Ministry of Pensions.

It remains to be seen whether registered nurses intend to "cover" the practice of these workers trained in First Aid and Home Nursing.

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