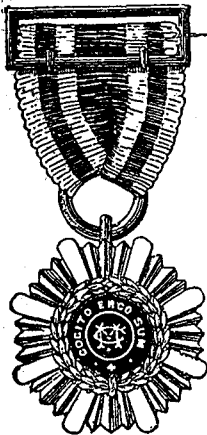


## THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

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### DISTRICT NURSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE. DISCUSSION.



At the Annual Meeting of the Matrons' Council held at 117, Sutherland Avenue, W., on January 26th, on discussion being invited on Miss Marsters' interesting paper on "District Nursing and Social Welfare," Miss ANDERSON PARSONS said that she very much appreciated Miss Marsters' remark that the best type of nurse is needed for district work. She had recently been on a lecturing tour, and had come in contact both with the work of fully trained Queen's Nurses, and also of those working under County Nursing Associations (certified Midwives, with a few months' training in nursing, not necessarily in hospitals). People with only a little knowledge were not suitable for district work, which required practical knowledge and practical instruction. Nurses must have more instruction in district work, and it would be well if they could receive teaching in this subject during their last few months in hospital. They needed an active practical knowledge of the home-life of their patients. It would be of the greatest value to the people and do much for the betterment of the community.

MISS MARQUARDT enquired as to the limitation of income of the people helped, and what payments were made.

MISS MARSTERS replied that a man earning £4 a week would pay at the rate of 1s. a visit. The Paddington and St. Marylebone District Nursing Association had four different scales for patients. *Class 1* pay 3s. a visit; *Class 2*, 1s.; *Class 3* give what they can afford at the end of the nurse's visits, and sometimes give more than 1s.; and *Class 4* are nursed free.

The Committee left it to the discretion of the Superintendent, who was in the best position to judge, as to how much a patient was to pay.

MISS CLAYTON said that the Kensington District Nursing Association was also employing a visiting nurse.

#### THE RELATIONS OF DISTRICT, VISITING, AND PRIVATE NURSES.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK asked whether the professional classes were included in the scope of the work of District Nursing Associations, and asked whether this new development would not interfere with the work of private nurses.

MISS MARSTERS said they attended such cases as an ex-Army Captain doing clerk's work. The professional classes often were poorer, and received lower salaries than the dustmen.

MISS CLAYTON asked the opinion of the Council as to whether a Queen's Nurses' Home should band women together to supply nurses at from £2 2s. to £3 3s. a week, without board.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK pointed out that District Nursing Associations were based on charity; that was why it was inexpedient for them to compete with private nurses.

MISS CLAYTON said that the Associations had endeavoured to start visiting nurses to care for better class patients, but private nurses would not stick to the work. She considered that a group of two or three nurses should undertake this work.

MISS MARSTERS said that the Homes were likely to get it because they had the connection.

MISS HEATHER-BIGG said it was evident that private nurses must buckle to if they did not wish to lose their work.

MISS CLAYTON said that people had not the room very often to put up private nurses. Visiting nurses had a salary, separate from board and lodging.

MISS MARQUARDT said that district nurses were in some instances nursing wealthy people.

MISS MARSTERS said the Superintendent should keep a keen eye on that point.

A question having been asked as to the salaries earned by Queen's Nurses, Miss Marsters said that during their six months' training in district work, trained nurses were paid at the rate of £55 per annum, with board and lodging, uniform, and washing. On appointment as Queen's Nurses, £63, with a rise of £3 each year up to £75. The Superintendents received from £100 to £150 per annum.

The Queen's Nurses had established a Pension Fund of their own, supported by themselves, and had £2,000 to £3,000 invested. There was, however, little demand for pensions. The Queen's Institute did not provide pensions.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK enquired what would be the result of V.A.Ds. doing Public Health work.

MISS MARSTERS said she had set her face against it, and the Marylebone Borough Authorities had promised to pay for extra nurses.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK said that scholarships were given to V.A.Ds. at King's College for Women to train in Public Health work. It was within her knowledge that some trained Health Visitors working under a Public Health Authority had refused to teach V.A.Ds., though quite willing to teach nurses in training.

MISS HURLSTON said that free scholarships in midwifery were also given to V.A.Ds. One V.A.D. had remarked that all trained nurses to-day were of the servant class, and a different class was wanted for midwives.

Yet the so-called servant class pay for their own training, and V.A.Ds. accept charity to pay for theirs.

It was generally recognised that all classes of patients must be nursed, and that co-operation and organisation were required so that the relations between district nurses, visiting nurses, and private nurses should be justly adjusted.

M. B.

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