

POOR LAW NURSING CONFERENCE.

At the Conference of Representatives of Boards of Guardians who have established Training Schools for Nurses, held on July 7th at the City of London Board Room, Bartholomew Close, Mr. John Frater, Chairman of the Tynemouth Guardians, who opened the proceedings, said it was not so many years since probationers paid, and willingly paid, a premium for their training now the more democratic principle was adopted that they should be paid a salary so that no one should be disqualified for want of cash. At the same time, in view of the value of the training she received, and the importance of the profession for which she was qualifying, it had been generally considered that the salary should be merely sufficient for maintenance.

Before the war, probationers were paid about £12 for the first year, £14 for the second, and £18 the third. Then the position was altered by the adoption by most Unions of the Civil Service scale of War Bonus, under which women officials were paid a somewhat lower scale of War Bonus than men. The position was now altered once more as in the last award of the Whitley Council it was decided that women should be paid at the same rate as men, which brought the probationer's commencing salary up to £48 15s. in the first year, £55 17s. in the second year, and £57 3s. in the third year. He submitted that the serious burden upon the rates necessitated by these salaries was unnecessarily high. This was also the opinion of the College of Nursing. It was suggested that £18, £22, and £30 respectively, was a suitable scale for the years of training. His Board had recently had to add 11 additional probationers to the staff, and it had meant an additional expenditure of £1,224 per annum. There was no suggestion that the salaries of existing probationers should be interfered with, but that they should be reduced in the case of new entrants, while those of staff nurses should be increased.

It was felt that the higher scale was not attracting the right class of probationers. It was further thought that if there was to be closer co-operation between the infirmaries and the voluntary hospitals and the two were to link up, this question must be settled. The poor-law infirmaries paid probationers at the rate of £48 15s. per annum (which, he submitted, was unnecessarily high) the voluntary hospitals at the rate of £20, and they said they could not pay more. The V.A.D.'s who did such valuable work in the war, had not come forward in sufficient quantities. He thought they had not had the service they might have had from them. The speaker suggested, as a basis for discussion, that the salaries of probationers should be £24, £30, and £36, and that they approach the voluntary hospitals and then secure a joint conference to fix the future rate.

It will be remembered that the discussion of this important question was held over till an adjourned Conference.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRONS.

Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.—Miss Mary Steuart Donaldson has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Great Northern Hospital, and was subsequently Matron of the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption for nine years. During the war she was Matron of a large Unit in Serbia, and later in France. Since March, 1919, she has been Matron of the London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, N.W.

Sanatorium, Mogerhanger Park, near Sandy, Bedfordshire.—Miss E. A. Winter has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Hospital, Sheffield, and has been Sister and Night Sister at the Lincoln County Hospital; Sister at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster; Home Sister, Night Sister and Assistant Matron at the Royal Berks Hospital, Reading. She is a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, with which she served at home and abroad for four and a half years.

Borough of Crewe Maternity Home, Linden Grange, Crewe.—Miss Florence Fox has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Essex County Hospital, where she has held the position of Assistant Matron.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Workhouse Infirmary, Portsmouth.—Miss Clara Maria Priest has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Birmingham Infirmary and has been Home Sister, Charge Nurse, Midwife, and Night Sister at the Parish of Portsmouth Workhouse Infirmary, Head Nurse at the Warwick Infirmary, Charge Nurse at the Birmingham Infirmary, and Staff Nurse at the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

SISTER.

District Hospital, West Bromwich.—Miss E. Teal has been appointed Theatre and Casualty Sister. She was trained at the Royal West Sussex, and City of London Maternity Hospitals, and has served as a member of the Territorial Force Nursing Service at home and abroad, and has also had experience of private nursing.

City of Leicester Maternity Home, Westcote's Drive, Leicester.—Miss Nora Scott has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary and the Sunderland Maternity Home. She has been Staff Midwife at the Sunderland Maternity Home, and at the Haslam Maternity Home, Chorley New Road, Bolton, Lancs.

QUEEN VICTORIA JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Edith I. Townsend is appointed to Northants., as Assistant Superintendent and School Nurse; Miss Margaret S. A. Hind to Kingston-on-Thames, as Senior Nurse; Miss Lily Bridges to Stockton and Thornaby; Miss Ellen M. Gaule to Reigate; Miss Catherine Hammonds to Accrington; Miss Lilian H. Hodges to Burwell; Miss Helena Mathieson to Cleator (Frizington); Miss Emmeline M. Morgan to Warwickshire C.N.A. Training Home, as Midwife; Miss Rose Paling to Lydney; Miss Cecilia Worthington to Frodsham.

Sir A. Mond, in a written answer, states that 60,672 children were in receipt of institutional relief and 174,097 in receipt of outdoor relief under the Poor Law on January 1st.

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