

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss A. C. Knight, Miss H. Ballard, Miss M. Robinson, Miss B. James.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

For what complications is Cæsarian section usually performed? What would you prepare for an emergency operation, and what are the dangers to be guarded against?

NURSING ECHOES.

Readers of this professional paper will note with the greatest relief and satisfaction that at the recent meeting of the General Nursing Council on February 3rd a Resolution was unanimously agreed and adopted, proposed by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and seconded by Miss Maude MacCallum, substituting an amended First Schedule for the consideration of the Minister of Health. This Schedule provides, under the heading of Qualifications, of each nurse admitted to the Register that the certificate of training, if any, shall appear, together with the dates of obtaining such qualification, and the hospital, or hospitals, in which such qualifying training has been received.

It is earnestly hoped that the Minister of Health will agree to sign the amended Rule, and thus enable thousands of nurses, who were otherwise determined not to place their names on the State Register, to avail themselves of the benefits conferred by the Nurses' Registration Act.

We hope to have quite a little gathering of Delegates of the National Council of Trained Nurses at 431, Oxford Street, on Saturday, February 11th. Tea will be at 4 p.m. It is nice to know three new organisations are applying for affiliation. It is important that the younger generation of nurses should interest themselves in international nursing affairs. So many of the splendid pioneers, headed by Miss Isla Stewart, Mrs. Hampton Robb, Miss Delano, and Miss Lanschot-Hubrecht, have passed away, and leaders who have outlived them are well into the sixties and deserve a little rest, so please come forward, young people, and keep the ball rolling.

The question of the adequacy of the nursing staffs of Poor Law infirmaries is one of vital interest to the patients, it is also of supreme importance to the nurses, and the following case is of interest in this connection:—

At an inquest, on February 2nd, on a patient

who died in the Norwich Poor Law Infirmary, after the amputation of a leg affected by a malignant growth, the deceased man's brother said he thought it strange that his brother was lying seriously ill in the institution, for a fortnight, and that he was only notified three hours before the operation took place.

The Resident Medical Officer, Dr. I. Barclay, gave evidence that he signed the sick notice to be sent to the patient's relations three days before the operation. The trouble was the insufficiency of the nursing staff. He believed the reason why the notice was not sent from Saturday to Tuesday was because the nurses were overworked.

The Sister-in-Charge of the ward to which the patient was returned after his operation was responsible for 124 cases. The man had to be left for five minutes while the nurse attended to another patient. The Sister and two junior probationers constituted the nursing staff of the entire male hospital at the time. Dr. Barclay said: "I have complained to the Guardians over and over again. It is wonderful that there has been no catastrophe before."

In reply to a question from the Coroner, the doctor replied that the man should not have been left for a moment for at least an hour and a half after returning to the ward. The Sister did more than could be expected of her with the staff at her disposal.

The Clerk to the Guardians disagreed with the doctor's views, and stated that, as a matter of fact, they were overstaffed with nurses.

The Coroner said that according to the evidence the infirmary was not sufficiently staffed, and he must recommend the Guardians to see into the matter.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from cardiac failure following operation."

With the Coroner, we recommend the Guardians to see into the matter. What time can the probationers in an institution so understaffed have to study the principles underlying their profession, or to come up to the requirements of the General Nursing Council? Moreover, the Guardians cannot expect to attract keen probationers, ambitious to be legally registered, when there can be no time for them either to be taught or to study. Presumably this is the type of Guardian who objects to the Syllabus of Training defined by the General Nursing Council, and thinks it impracticable.

The *Lancet* has an interesting note on the Conference on Lunacy Administration held in

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