

## NURSING ECHOES.

The Minister of Health has issued a Circular to Poor Law Authorities (Circular 330) stating that it has been represented to him that the effect of the Order dated August 13th, 1921, made by the Secretary of State, in pursuance of the Regulations made under Section 7 of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1921, is not in all cases fully understood by Medical Officers and Dispensers attached to Poor Law Establishments. He has therefore caused a Memorandum to be prepared explaining in a convenient form the application of the Order to Poor Law Institutions, and the procedure to be adopted to ensure compliance with the prescribed conditions. The Clauses of special interest to Poor Law nurses are the following:

Supplies of stock preparations of dangerous drugs required to be kept in a ward are only to be issued by the Medical Officer on a written requisition of the nurse in charge of the ward. The Medical Officer will retain the requisition for reference and record for a period of at least two years. The nurse in charge of the ward is required to keep a copy of each requisition, to keep the drugs so supplied under lock and key, and to use them only under the directions of the Medical Officer.

The Medical Officer is required to take all necessary precautions to ensure the safe delivery of the drugs affected by the Regulations to the ward in which they are required.

Where there is an outpatient department, the two preceding requirements are to apply to the department in the same way as they do to a ward.

The Medical Officer is required to keep a record of each occasion on which a prescription or requisition was dispensed, and, in the case of a prescription the date, the name of the prescribing doctor and name or case number of patient, and in the case of a requisition the date, the name of the nurse making the requisition, and the name or description of the ward for which the requisition is made.

The other day the Superintendent of a private nurses' co-operation received an account from a patient for damage done to a sheet through burns caused by a nurse while smoking in bed. We hear, also, that damage to sheets from the same cause is not unknown in the nurse-training schools. There are differences of opinion as to the propriety of smoking by nurses, but there can be none as to smoking in bed; a nurse who indulges in this practice is a dangerous person to have in a house, and it should be strictly and absolutely forbidden.

The annual report of the Cambridge County Nursing Association stated that the steady increase of the work led the Committee, in June, 1921, to decide on the purchase of a Ford car for the use of the Superintendent and her assistant, and that it had been of inestimable benefit in the saving of both time and energy.

In the future, no doubt, the car will be a potent influence in solving the problem of the care of the sick in rural districts. Instead of a highly skilled nurse being set down in a small village, where there is not enough work to employ her energies, the car will enable her to cover a wide area, and thus her knowledge and skill will be available for the benefit of a much larger number of people. It will also enable her to reside at headquarters, as, on a telephone call, she will be quickly available when wanted, and she can thus have the stimulus of the society of other nurses engaged in the same work as herself. The isolation of the rural nurse, which is so large a factor in the unpopularity of rural nursing, will be a thing of the past; and the car will also help to solve the "shortage" question, because one nurse will be able to deal with a much larger number of cases than heretofore.

No one can have seen the important and indispensable part played by the car in the organisation of district nursing in the devastated regions of France without being desirous of seeing it incorporated in the organisation of district nursing, and especially rural nursing, in the United Kingdom.

Leicester has real reason to be proud of its district nurses, and of their Superintendent, Miss Mearns, who was appointed Superintendent under Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute in 1916, at the Home in New Walk. Miss Mearns has a profound love for the work, and believes deeply in its value, so that she inevitably inspires all her nurses with the conviction that theirs is a fine and a noble profession. Never yet has Miss Mearns been known to say "No" to a call for help. As quickly as feet can reach the spot a deft, capable, kindly nurse is there to do all that is needed. The wonderful help of the Queen's Nurses during the terrible influenza epidemics is something that will never be forgotten in Leicester.

Viscountess Novar, the Countess of Elgin, and Lady Green have recently been engaged, on behalf of the Fife County Nursing Association, in submitting to the workers in the textile factories in Dunfermline, by the courtesy

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