

ing and far better paid, with only about one-sixth of the training to go through, and it was the natural result that the hospitals should have fared badly. It was no exaggeration to say that the community exploited the nursing services. They were there to fight disease for the public, and they had to allow for the cost. In addition to fighting disease, all the hospitals were fighting insolvency, and it was difficult for them to keep going. The Government had considered the increase necessary by introducing the Nurses' Registration Act, which would necessitate every nurse being State examined, and that meant they would have to be better taught. The community had to realise what a very splendid service they had had in the past for nothing, or for very little, and what a splendid service they would have in the future; but they must face the position with an honourable generosity owing to the altered times, and he was sure they would be only too willing to give their help. When they remembered that one-third of their total expenditure for the whole year was to go in nursing, they would realise that it was going to people whose splendid devotion to their work was beyond all words; and, in these changing times, they had to make their budget meet the cost of what was required.

### THE SCHICK TEST.

The Ministry of Health, in a Memorandum on (a) the supply and administration of Diphtheria Antitoxin and (b) on the use of the Schick Test and Methods of active immunisation for the prevention of Diphtheria explain that the Schick Test is a clinical test by means of which the Antitoxic immunity of individuals, and consequently their susceptibility or otherwise to the disease, can be judged from a local skin reaction.

It is evident that the Schick test has many useful practical applications to diphtheria prevention, and that the practice of active immunisation based on the results of the test may in many instances be usefully followed either in an individual household or in connection with definite outbreaks of diphtheria. Here attention is particularly called to the utility of the system:—

#### IN THE CASE OF NURSES AND OTHERS SPECIALLY EXPOSED TO RISK OF DIPHTHERIA INFECTION.

The history of isolation hospitals shows that nurses and members of hospital staffs who are brought into frequent and close relation to diphtheria cases not only frequently contract infection, but sometimes suffer from a severe or even fatal attack of diphtheria. This has been notably the case with younger nurses or those who are exposed to diphtheria infection for the first time. If all new members of the staff of an isolation hospital who are likely to be exposed to diphtheria infection are tested by the Schick test before or at the time of admission, and those who give positive reactions are forthwith offered active immunisation, the occurrence of diphtheria amongst the staff of the hospital should be materially reduced.

### PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES FOR NURSES.

The Mayoress of Leicester (Mrs. J. W. Heath), who was accompanied by the Mayor, presented the prizes and certificates, at the Annual Distribution of Prizes to Nurses of the Training School at the North Evington Infirmary. Mr. H. C. Tomlin, M.B.E., Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, presided, and, in addition to the Mayor and Mayoress, was supported on the platform by Mrs. Warner and Miss Leeson (Guardians), Dr. E. C. Hadley, Medical Superintendent, and Mr. H. Mansfield (Clerk to the Board).

The Chairman spoke of the progress made in recent years, which he attributed to the excellence of the work of the Matron (Miss Masters) and the Medical Superintendent, supported by the medical and nursing staffs.

Dr. Hadley said they were proud of their Training School at North Evington, and not only did all the nurses obtain their proficiency certificate at the end of four years but many of them won the certificates of the Central Midwives' Board, the Royal Sanitary Institute, as health visitors and school nurses, and also for massage. Another subject now being taught was hospital economy.

Dr. Hadley congratulated the nurses on their extreme keenness and diligence during the year, and said most of the credit for their success was due to the Matron.

They were already carrying out at the infirmary the whole syllabus of teaching laid down under the Nurses' Registration Act. It would mean a greater distribution of the work than hitherto, and he was afraid that eventually he would have to ask the Guardians to appoint a tutor assistant. He was only preparing them for that when he said they had to realise that the Royal Infirmary and similar institutions had appointed assistants.

#### PRIZE AND CERTIFICATE WINNERS.

Prize given by Mr. H. C. Tomlin to the best nurse completing her training (4th year).—Nurse Elizabeth Ann Bell.

Training certificates, awarded to nurses on completion of their four years' training, and who have passed the necessary qualifying examination and have become proficient in the science and art of nursing.—Nurse Lucy Elks, Nurse Violet Kathleen Baldwin, Sister Elizabeth O'Hurley, Nurse Sarah Elizabeth Evans, Nurse Elsie Berdinner, Nurse Edna Aldyth Morris, Nurse Maud Annie Bugg, Nurse Elizabeth Ann Bell, Nurse Evelyn Mary Harris, Nurse Agnes Martha Freeman.

Central Midwives' Board Examination.—Nurse Lucy Elks, Nurse Violet Kathleen Baldwin, Sister Elizabeth O'Hurley, Nurse Elsie Berdinner, Nurse Edna Aldyth Morris, Nurse Maud Annie Bugg.

Health visitors' and school nurses' examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute.—Sister Amy Dexter, Sister Elizabeth O'Hurley, Nurse Elsie Berdinner, Nurse Maud Annie Bugg, Nurse Agnes Martha Freeman.

Prizes given by the Guardians to nurse obtaining the highest number of ward marks of any nurse in training during last 12 months: Nurse Annie Brockbank. Awarded on the results of the annual examinations: 3rd year, Nurse Bessie Brown Sanders; 1 (2nd year), Nurse Lilian Elizabeth Warner; 2 (2nd year), Nurse Jessie Maud Bishop; 1 (1st year), Nurse Winifred Freda Grimes; 2 (1st year), Nurse Elizabeth Woodard. For invalid cookery: 1, Nurse Kathleen Gillen; 2, Bessie Brown Sanders. For massage: Nurse Bessie Brown Sanders. General attention to

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