

the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee of the London Whitley Council to place Health Visitors under Grade "B" in their draft scheme for the recruitment, conditions of service, and rates of pay of officers engaged in the London Municipal Service. In view of the professional and technical qualifications and ever-increasing responsibilities entailed in Maternity and Child Welfare work, such a degradation in their status cannot be tolerated without a strong protest."

The second matter was the appointment of a Health Visitor by the St. Pancras Borough Council, who had the single qualification of the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. The Secretary was instructed to forward the following letter to the Minister of Health and to the Chairman of the St. Pancras Borough Council:—

"SIR,—I have been instructed by my Council to write to you protesting against the appointment by the Borough Council of St. Pancras of a Health Visitor whose qualification is the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board alone.

In view of the increasing responsibility entailed in Maternity and Child Welfare work, we are of the opinion that only very thoroughly qualified women should be appointed to such posts."

N.B.—Unless Nurses combine in the interests of their Profession, they will have to put up with any treatment that Authorities choose to mete out to them.

MAUDE MAC CALLUM,
Hon. Secretary.

We hope the other organisations of Nurses will take steps to express their resentment at being placed under Grade B of the London Whitley Council if working as Health Visitors. These workers need to be very highly qualified—the day has gone by for the amateur Health Visitor.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE CONGRESS.

The Thirty-third Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, to be held at Bournemouth from July 24th to 29th, promises to be of much interest. The five sections include Sanitary Science, Engineering and Architecture, Maternity and Child Welfare (including School Hygiene), Personal and Domestic Hygiene, and Industrial Hygiene.

On Sunday, July 23rd, the preacher at St. Peter's will be the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Birmingham.

The President of the Congress is Major-General the Right Hon. J. E. B. Seeley, C.B., C.M.G., P.C., D.S.O., M.P. (Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire), who will give the inaugural address when the Congress opens in the Town Hall, on July 24th, at 5 p.m. Previously the Health Exhibition will be opened in the Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, by the Mayor of Bournemouth.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Malmesbury, D.L., J.P., will preside in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m., on July 25th, when the Popular Lecture will be

given by Professor Leonard Hill, M.B., F.R.S., on "The Value of Clean, Fresh Air."

On Thursday, July 27th, at the Special Concert at the Winter Gardens, at 8 p.m., a Special Film on Rat and Pest Extermination, lent by the Vermin Repression Society, will be shown.

Some five hundred Delegates have been appointed, and many representatives of Public Health Bodies are expected, including the Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress, who are taking an active part in the meeting. Several Government Departments have appointed Delegates, and a number of Foreign and Dominion Governments are also sending representatives.

MENTAL HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION.

Alderman J. S. Taggart, of Liverpool, Chairman of the Mental Nurses Association, at the annual meeting of that body held at the Guildhall last week, said:—

"We are unanimous in our declaration of the obsolescence of the Lunacy Laws. It is a crying scandal, and to my mind Parliament is criminally responsible for the vast amount of suffering which is bound to exist until they tackle the question of the reform of the Lunacy Laws. Under the present system we can take into our institutions only those people who are certifiable—people who are far advanced in insanity—and who are almost past treatment. We have asked Parliament to introduce legislation and empower local authorities to deal with incipient cases of insanity. With the knowledge we possess, if permission were given to local authorities to take incipient cases into some kind of clinics for early treatment, there can be no doubt whatever that a vast number of patients who are now in our asylums need never have been there at all. It is the saddest thing in history that instead of tackling this matter in its early stages we must wait until these people are almost past cure. It is inhuman, and yet it is a fact."

The speaker further expressed the opinion that unless the Bill foreshadowed in Parliament brought about radical changes such as he had indicated it would not be worth its salt.

On the motion of Sir George Wyatt Truscott, a resolution was carried unanimously empowering the Association to communicate with the Ministry of Health and the Board of Control, pointing out the importance of a clause empowering authorities to deal with incipient insanity being included in the above Bill. Sir George Truscott remarked that, after all that had been said, one would have thought that the Bill would have contained such a clause.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The foundation stone of the extension of the hostel of St. Luke, a nursing home for the clergy in Fitzroy Square, was laid by Princess Christian on July 7th, which it is hoped to open early next year. A sum of £14,000 is still required for this good work.

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