

How one wishes that medical men could find posts for their protégées without making registered nurses pay the piper!

The announcement that Badges were procurable, without providing an official form for their requisition, has, as usual, caused waste of time and money. But we have ceased to expect either forethought or organisation in the management of our official business.

A further list of hospitals was approved as complete training schools, and part training schools; but as there is no approved Syllabus of Training, we are not informed in the report upon what evidence of efficiency they are approved.

MENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

Dr. Bedford Pierce said there was little to report, except the Syllabus had been sent to the General Nursing Council for Scotland. This, no doubt, was done before our Minister of Health refused to sign the Syllabus of Training for Mental Nurses. As "go as you please" so far as a Statutory Standard of nursing education is concerned in Mental Hospitals, is still the order of the day—the Scottish Council has really no jurisdiction in the matter. It is well for Mental Hospitals and Nurses that they have the precedent of the good work of co-ordination of the Medico-Psychological Association to go upon.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

On the suggestion of the Finance Committee a general regulation is to be drawn up for the officials' holidays. Last year the junior officials were not systematically relieved as they should have been. Let us hope this year they will receive more consideration.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

JUNE 26TH.

COLLEGE OF NURSING, LIMITED.

MR. R. RICHARDSON asked the Minister of Health what sum of money was subscribed for the Nation's Fund for Nurses; the amount from this fund given to nurses incapacitated through war service and the amount handed over to the College of Nursing, Limited; whether he is aware that many nurses are discontented with the College, and that although it purports to represent 22,000, according to this company's own Report issued in 1922, about 16,000 nurses refrained from paying the annual subscription of 5s., causing a deficit of £1,403; and whether this deficit has been met out of the money subscribed by the public for nurses suffering from war service?

LORD E. PERCY: My Right Hon. Friend has no information as to the disposal of any funds raised by the College of Nursing, Limited, which is a private organisation and not within his jurisdiction.

REMARKS.

We think Lord Eustace Percy cannot be rightly informed in describing the College of Nursing, Ltd., as a "private organisation," although it is not within his jurisdiction, and the question should have been addressed to other than to the Ministry of Health.

The College is an organisation licensed as a limited company by the Board of Trade; it is not, therefore, a "private organisation," and has to conform to regulations governing the Companies' Acts.

THE OVERSEAS NURSING ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Report of the Overseas Nursing Association—which has its headquarters at the Imperial Institute, S.W.—is always of interest, and the work the nurses are doing in the Dominions and Colonies overseas cannot be estimated.

Many new candidates have applied during the year 1922-1923 for posts abroad and there are long waiting lists for practically all the Colonies. The number of nurses connected with the Association who have been employed during the year is 482. Of these, 137 have been working as Private Nurses, and in hospitals not under Government, 13 in the Dominions, and 332 in the Government Hospitals in the Crown Colonies. During the year several nurses have been sent out to fill newly created posts, namely, a Matron for a new Government Hospital in Mauritius, a Nurse-Matron for the Cottage Hospital, Tortole, Virgin Islands, and a Matron for the Holberton Hospital, Antigua. A number of Matrons and nurses have also been selected by the Committee to fill vacancies caused by the termination of agreements, and other reasons.

Amongst others a very interesting report has been received from a nurse working in Newfoundland, who writes:—

"In presenting this report, I wish to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the fact that I 'patrol' a sparsely inhabited portion of the Newfoundland coast, where the settlements are widely placed, where there is no other chance of obtaining medical help beyond what I can give. The nearest doctor is employed by a lumbering company just over sixty miles away, and of course may not leave the immediate vicinity. In order to cover my district I have travelled by steamer, small boat, dog team, horse and sleigh, and by walking. On occasion I have travelled all night in blinding snowstorms during winter and have experienced very rough passages during gales at sea, but luckily, in spite of accidents and varying weather, nothing yet has incapacitated me. In spite of all the difficulties connected with so primitive a place, the fact of a nurse being available has proved a great boon to the people and I, personally, am very grateful to have been permitted to come and help. Since May, 1921, when I arrived upon my district, I have extracted 225 teeth, which, of course, all helps to keep a healthier population. Then practical demonstrations upon baby-feeding have helped to lower the number of deaths among infants. Unfortunately, the large area I have to cover makes it impossible for me to attend many confinements so the result is I get many sudden calls for retained placenta, eclampsia, puerperal sepsis and breast abscess but on the whole I have been able to teach simple rules of cleanliness and precaution with quite good results. Ignorance and superstition, as well as prejudice is extremely hard to fight. Among the accidents there have been such things as an axe wound through an instep—an almost complete severing of a nose by an axe—broken ribs—sprained joints. It has been quite impossible to get a holiday. Last September I tried to sandwich a week in between two confinements. Arriving at my chosen "resting" place the news spread that a nurse was present. The same night I had a confinement to attend. In the three following days I extracted 24 teeth, attended several patients and received frantic wires from all along the coast urging my immediate return. I returned by steamer,

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