

NURSING ECHOES.

The annual Report of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses to the Patron, Queen Alexandra, for the year 1922, states that it has been marked by grave anxiety with regard to finance. In spite of every effort to secure additional funds, and to reduce the expenditure, the balance of over £3,400 on the Queen's Fund has been practically exhausted, and the statement of accounts shows an overdraft of nearly £800. This is the first occasion on which the Queen's Institute has been compelled to ask for an overdraft at the Bank, and the position is the more serious as, with one small exception, the Council, having no power over its capital funds, can offer no security for a loan.

The Council records loyal co-operation of the affiliated Associations under these difficult circumstances, and the Training Homes have agreed to give the six-months' district training for £20, the Institute providing uniform, thus effecting a saving of £10 on each candidate in training.

Apart from the financial side, most satisfactory progress can be reported. More nurses have applied for training as Queen's Nurses, and the qualifications of the applicants reached a high standard. It is thus now possible to meet the needs of the affiliated Associations, except in the case of Queen's Nurses willing to practise midwifery, where there is still some shortage.

In view of the cost of living, the minimum allowance for board and laundry has been reduced to 21s. a week, but it is understood that this reduction can only be made where the local conditions make it possible for the Nurses to manage on the lesser amount. The allowance for uniform has also been reduced to £8 per annum. The brassard is now no longer part of the Queen's Nurses' uniform.

The schemes by which certain Approved Societies pay for the nursing of their members are, it is stated, working satisfactorily. For the first nine months of the year £2,646 6s. was paid over by the Approved Societies for the nursing of their members.

During the year Representatives of the Scottish Council met the Scottish Board of Health on several occasions to lay before them the Syllabus of Instruction given during District Training, and to discuss with them how, in view of the Board's recent circular entitled "Conditions for the Certification and Registration of Health Visitors," the lectures given to their candidates in training for the Queen's

Roll could be brought into line so that they might qualify for the Public Health Work which the Institute is being asked to undertake all over the country. It was finally arranged that Nurses receiving District Training in the Central Home, Edinburgh, should take the Board of Health's prescribed Course of Study to qualify them to enter for the Health Visitor's Probation Certificate. Students who successfully complete this Course will be awarded the Health Visitor's Probation Certificate, and after two years' approved service in a district where at least two of the Public Health Services are officially undertaken, in conjunction with general district work, will be awarded the full Health Visitor's Certificate.

On January 1st, 1923, there were 2,120 Queen's Nurses on the Roll, the total number working in connection with the Institute, including Queen's Nurses and those in training, Village Nurses, and Midwives, was 5,565.

The work of Queen's Nurses is of a high quality and of great national value. We hope that this will be increasingly realised, and that the necessary support will be forthcoming. It must be realised that the expenses incurred are for administration, district and midwifery training, and salaries of central staff—not for the salaries of Queen's Nurses, which are locally provided.

Sir Thomas Dewey, presiding on June 29th at the annual meeting of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses, held at the Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., said that the affairs of the fund were most satisfactory. The total premiums received up to December last amounted to £92,439. The number of surrendered policies was 631, as against 765 in the previous year. The number of nurses drawing annuities was 3,157 at the total rate of £85,000 a year, which showed an increase of 119. From these figures it was very apparent that nurses receiving pensions lived longer than they were expected to. According to the expectation of life 707 pensioners should have died during the last five years, although actually only 416 did die. The invested funds amounted to £2,198,565. Of that sum £1,109,582, or over 50 per cent., was invested in British Government securities, which meant that the nurses had lent to the Government more than a million pounds of their savings. That was a splendid record, he considered, because nursing was not a very highly paid profession. He regretted to say that there was little or no hope of any bonuses being declared this year.

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