

(e) That to accomplish the ends in view, it must be recognised by the governing authorities that nothing short of a high standard of training will suffice, even though this training is costly.

(f) That, to prevent wastage either of effort on the part of the teachers or of public expenditure, mental nursing should be regarded as a vocation; and candidates for training should be bound by some form of contract.

(g) That as mentally sick patients, equally with other persons, are liable to bodily diseases—the latter being, indeed, not infrequently the cause of mental illness—nurses in attendance on mental cases must have a knowledge of general nursing, and this knowledge ought to be the foundation of their training in purely mental nursing. Conversely, the general nurse needs, for the highest fulfilment of her duties, some acquaintance with the elements of Psychology and some knowledge and experience of mental nursing.

(h) That it is fundamentally important to regard mental nursing not as a separate profession, but as a branch of the nursing profession. For attainment of success, the ideal experience is that of complete training in both general and mental nursing. As for many years to come, and perhaps always, the majority of persons desiring to take up mental nursing will probably seek their initial experience at a mental hospital, facilities at a general hospital for those who desire to complete their training in general as well as mental nursing must be available.

The Committee express satisfaction that legislation is contemplated under which the presence of at least two women will be secured on each statutory committee of visitors in which the control and management of each hospital is vested.

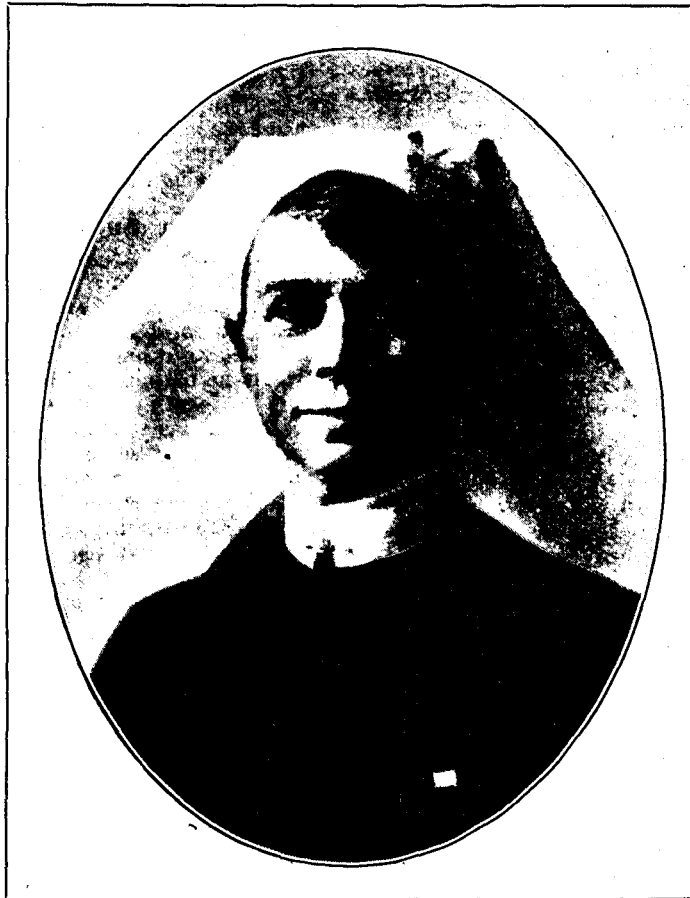
### Training

The Committee point out that until the establishment of the Register of Nurses under the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, which among its supplementary parts contains one for mental nurses, the accepted evidence of full training of a mental nurse was the nursing certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association. It points out that the division of the State Examination into two parts (preliminary and final), the preliminary examination being the same for all branches of nursing, and the training for the final examination being devoted to the particular branch which the candidate wishes to enter as a registered nurse, was strongly urged on the Council by the Committee. The Committee further state that efforts are being made to avoid the necessity of a nurse who desires to obtain both registration, and the Association's certificate having to pass two final examinations.

Obviously the Medico-Psychological Association should recognize that the Final State Examination for Mental Nurses, providing for admission to the State Register and

certificate, is the only legal qualification in nursing and should adopt the course followed by the London Obstetrical Society when the Central Midwives Board Examination was fully established, and discontinue its own examination, when members of the Association would no doubt become examiners for the General Nursing Councils.

The Report incorporates numerous points of great importance, and the object of this brief notice must be to stimulate our readers to procure it and study it for themselves. It may be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2, price 1s. 3d. net, or through any bookseller, and demonstrates the great value of a general survey of a section of nursing by a Government Department.



MISS M. M. THORBURN, R.R.C.,  
Matron, Horton Mental Hospital, Epsom. Member Departmental Committee, Board of Control, to enquire into the Nursing Service, in County and Borough Mental Hospitals.

Miss M. M. Thorburn, S.R.N., R.R.C., the Nurse Member of the Committee on Nursing in County and Borough Mental Hospitals, and Matron of the Horton Mental Hospital, Epsom, is a highly qualified member of the Nursing Profession. She holds Certificates for General and Fever Nursing, having received her training at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and the Fever Hospital in the same city. She obtained the Medico-Psychological Certificate when an Assistant Matron at Edinburgh Royal Mental Hospital, West House, Morningside. She was appointed Assistant Matron at the Horton Mental (County of London) Hospital, Epsom, in 1912 and Matron in 1913.

As Matron of the Hospital, which in 1915 became a War Hospital for the duration of the War, she did war service until 1919, being awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1917. It is a fine record.

As the only trained nurse appointed on to the Departmental Committee, her expert know-

ledge must have been most valuable in its deliberations.

We note that the Committee recommend the appointment upon the inspectorate of the Board of Control of a doubly-trained nurse, of wide experience and capacity.

### PRINCESS MARY'S ROYAL AIR FORCE NURSING SERVICE.

We are officially informed that the Headquarters of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service has removed from Alexandra House, Kingsway, W.C.2, and that the address of the Matron-in-Chief is now Room 507, 5-6, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.2. Telephone Number, Regent 8000, Extension 662.

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