

Many local authorities would not trouble if the doctor did not enter his wards from one year's end to another as long as he kept expenditure down, and he feared that the attention of the medical superintendent was often more directed to the visiting committee than to his patients. His position ought to be made so secure that he was independent of the visiting committee, and suggested that medical superintendents should be appointed by the Ministry of Health. It would, in his opinion, be better for a mental hospital to be governed by a lay superintendent than for the medical superintendent to be a supreme medical director.

We draw attention to the important decisions of the Minister of Health on the Training of Health Visitors outlined on page 47. It will be observed that, under the conditions of grant, the entrants to the profession of Health Visiting will be required to devote $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 years to their training for this work. This consideration will no doubt be taken into account by Local Authorities in fixing the rates of salaries of their Health Visitors, and the Minister trusts that in all cases the salaries offered will be sufficient to attract and retain qualified women who can reasonably be expected to render efficient service.

At a meeting held last week, by invitation of the Matron at the Paddington Hospital, Miss Bertha Cave proposed the establishment of a "Non-Political Nurses' Fund for Nurses." We think, however, that before nurses contribute the shillings they are asked to give to the new Fund that they will want to know whether the Nation's Fund for Nurses to which the public contributed so generously a few years ago should not meet this need.

A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned in regard to the death of the two probationer nurses at the North Western Hospital, Hampstead, who were fatally injured in a motor cycle accident in January last, and died in St. George's Hospital. Much sympathy is felt with the relatives of these nurses, who were only 19 years of age, and were, we understand, promising probationers.

The Trained Nurses' Association of India met in Annual Conference in Lucknow on February 19th to 21st, when much interesting business was transacted, including the appointment of a Delegate to the International Council of Nurses.

THE PASSING OF SISTER CARTWRIGHT, S.R.N.

As we go to press the news comes of the passing of Sister S. E. Cartwright, for so many years Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Society, 431, Oxford Street, W.1., at the War Memorial Hospital, Alford, where she has been cared for with love, skill and devotion by the Matron, Miss Rhoda Metherell, S.R.N. (for many years a member of the Staff of the Registered Nurses' Society), and the nursing staff of the hospital. Two days ago Miss Metherell wrote that she was not so well, but she had rallied so often that she thought she might again, but it was not so, and those of her friends who loved her best must realise that for her it is an entering into rest, which for her is supremely best.

It is only possible now to give this brief notice of one of the gentlest and bravest members of our profession, and whose quiet work in the cause of State Registration, contributed largely to its promotion.

TERRITORIAL ARMY NURSING SERVICE.

It is officially announced that in future Principal Matrons of the Territorial Army Nursing Service called up for duty on the embodiment of the Territorial Army will receive during embodiment pay at half the current rates (including increments), subject to the performance of full half-time military duty. When this condition is not fulfilled, they will receive such lower rates as may be approved by the Army Council in each case. No allowances will be issuable except in respect of uniform and travelling.

NURSING IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A Bill to provide for the registration and inspection of Nursing Homes by County Councils and County Borough Councils, and to confer upon such Councils powers in connection therewith, was introduced into the House of Commons by Col. G. B. Hurst, K.C., Member for the Moss Side division of Manchester on behalf of the College of Nursing, Ltd., on Wednesday, February 25th.

The Bill provides that on and after the first day of January, 1925, it shall not be lawful for any person for gain to carry on any nursing home as defined in the Bill, unless the name of such person and the premises used, or represented as being or intended to be used, for the purpose of such home are registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

It is proposed that the Registration Authority shall be: (a) As respects the City of London, the Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled; (b) Elsewhere the County Council or County Borough Council, with power of delegation.

The grounds on which registration may be refused are enumerated, one of which is that "The Matron or other person having the management and control of the nursing of the patients is not a State Registered Nurse on the General Part of the Register." Provided that this ground shall not operate as a ground for the refusal or cancellation of Registration of any Nursing Home until the first day of January, 1930.

It is suggested that the fee to be paid on Registration shall not exceed 10s., and that all expenses incurred by the registration authority in carrying into execution the provisions of this Act shall be defrayed out of the rates, which appears to us a very unfair provision. Nursing Homes are businesses, pure and simple, and the proprietors and not the ratepayers should bear the cost of their registration.

We also consider that not only the Matron but the members of the Nursing Staff should be nurses on the General Part of the State Register.

Provision is made that inspection may be carried out by the Medical Officer of Health of the registration authority, or other person being either a qualified medical practitioner or state registered nurse if duly authorised by the registration authority in that behalf.

The Bill also provides for the imposition of heavy penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act, *i.e.*, not exceeding £50, and a further penalty not exceeding £20 for each day on which the offence continues after conviction with, in addition, imprisonment not exceeding three months for a second offence.

As Col. Hurst did not obtain a place in the ballot the chances of the Bill becoming law appear remote.

We advise all those interested in the question to obtain the Bill from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Kingsway, W.C.2.

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