

THE NATIONAL HEALTH.

It is only six short years since the establishment of a Government Department with a Cabinet Minister at its head, located in the offices of the late Local Government Board, yet the event has proved that there was ample scope for such a Department.

Hardly a week passes that we do not receive leaflets and pamphlets, under the heading "Public Health, England," dealing with questions of importance in relation to the health of the people.

UNRECOGNISED CASES OF SMALLPOX.

Thus a Circular Letter has been issued by direction of the Minister of Health to Boards of Guardians, stating that his attention has been drawn to recent instances in which unrecognised cases of small-pox have been admitted to poor law institutions and have been the means of spreading the infection before the true nature of their illness was discovered.

The Regulations in force require that every person on admission to the institution shall be examined by the Medical Officer, and all nurses and all attendants at a poor law institution should be instructed to call the attention of the Medical Officer in charge to any case in which a rash is observed at any time during the inmate's stay in the institution.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Public Health Acts, the Minister has made Regulations (the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926) which come into operation on October 1st, 1926, requiring every medical practitioner, on first becoming aware that a child upon whom he is in professional attendance is suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum shall forthwith notify the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the place of residence of the parent or other person, if any, having charge of the child is situate at the date of notification.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

The Public Health Regulations relating to puerperal fever are now revoked, and new forms for the notification of cases of puerperal fever are prescribed, and in addition to the present notification of Puerperal Fever under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts an obligation is placed upon medical practitioners to notify Puerperal Pyrexia, which is defined as meaning any febrile condition occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage, in which a temperature of 100.4 degs. Fahr. or more has been sustained during a period of 24 hours or has recurred during that period.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

Some Members of the Council.

MISS ELIZABETH LUSK MACAULAY, O.B.E., R.R.C.

Miss Elizabeth Lusk Macaulay, who is a Registered Nurse, a Registered Mental Nurse, and a Member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, is one of those to whom fate has been kind, for she is an enthusiast in regard to the branch of nursing which she has adopted as her life's work, finds her happiness in it, and would not change it for anything else in the world. It is a keen delight to her to study its scientific side, but the human side attracts her just as strongly; it is a pleasure to her to come into contact with the patients under her charge, and they respond to her understanding sympathy with gratitude and affection.

Miss Macaulay received her training in General Nursing at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, from 1904 to 1908, and then passed on to the Stirling District Hospital at Larbert, a fine training school in mental nursing, where Dr. G. W. (now Professor) Robertson, who has done so much to improve the care of mental patients, and the status and training of mental nurses, was at one time Medical Superintendent.

Miss Macaulay was Ward Sister (or Assistant-Matron) at Larbert, and studied for, and obtained, the Certificate of the Medico-Psychological Association at the same time. It is not surprising to learn that she is a keen advocate for the employment of women nurses in the male wards of mental hospitals, believing that—given the right type of woman—they can with advantage be employed to nurse all classes of cases. In 1912 Miss Macaulay was appointed Matron of Craig House, Morningside, the



MISS ELIZABETH LUSK MACAULAY, O.B.E., R.R.C.
Foundation Fellow of the British College of Nurses.

branch of the Royal Edinburgh Mental Hospital for private patients, where Professor Robertson is Physician Superintendent. In 1915 she was granted leave of absence for active service in the Great War, and was for three and a half years in Northern France, three of which were spent in charge of a shell shock hospital.

It was Professor Myers, Neurologist at Birmingham University, who appealed to the authorities for a lady with mental experience to care for the neurasthenics in this hospital, who sorely needed skilled nursing care, and Miss Macaulay was selected; soon her care extended to other patients. The hospital was visited by General Woodhouse, Director of Medical Services in Northern France; General Sawyer, Deputy-Director General; and Sir Arthur Sloggett. Miss Macaulay had the satisfaction of knowing that her work was appreciated, for it was in the nature of an experiment, as she was the first woman connected with the Military Nursing Service to be appointed to such a position. She

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