

Nursing Profession—Royalties, Ministers, politicians, philanthropists, are all recognising the benefit to the community of the standardised efficient trained nurse.

H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught never misses an opportunity of expressing his appreciation of efficient nursing, and how sincerely he approves of the professional status of his wife, who writes S.R.N. after her Royal title, and we are gratified to note that Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health, when visiting Whipps Cross Hospital recently, to present medals and certificates to nurses successful in examinations, took occasion to lay stress on the value of skilled nursing. He remarked that "anyone who had experience of hospitals knew that the great factor was the condition of the nursing service. They had changed their ideas in recent years about nurses, their functions and duties. They did not look upon them as servants blindly and mechanically carrying out orders given to them, but they now considered nurses as junior partners with the medical and surgical staffs in the administration of hospitals. They looked to the nurses not merely to carry out the instructions of the senior partners, but to understand and appreciate the reasons and the meaning of those orders. The nurses belonged to a profession which was well worthy of the best type of women, and one to which any woman might be proud to belong. The virtues they looked for in nurses were various. Kindliness, sympathy and devotion were essentially womanly virtues, and when to these was added the possession of a trained intelligence, he thought they could claim to be perfect nurses. They deserved that which they had already won, the gratitude of their country, which could point with pride to the fact that it had the finest nursing service in the whole world."

The presentation of certificates to the students completing the international courses held at Bedford College for Women (University of London) Regent's Park—always a very interesting function—will this year take place at that College on July 12th, when the certificates will be presented by the Right Honourable Neville Chamberlain, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health. The recipients are:—Students who have completed the Public Health Course: Marianne Kutschera, Gisela Rapatz and Maria Wagner (Austria), Isabel Manson (Canada), Anna Mankova (Czecho-Slovakia), Miliza Kipper (Esthonia), Clotilde Hennebert (France), Gertrude Davies and Elizabeth Dyson (Great Britain), Marie Stephan (Germany), Adelaide Spensley (South Africa).

The Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing: Grete Sonnenberg, Marie Strobl and Anna Schwarzenberg (Austria), Marjorie Craven (Great Britain), Martha Hededam (Denmark), Stefanja Potocka (Poland), Despina Cantacuzino (Roumania), Mercedes Mila (Spain).

At the Distribution of Prizes to Probationer Nurses at the St. Marylebone Hospital on June 24th, the guests were received by Miss Broadbent (Chairman of the Hospital Committee), Mr. Basil Hood, F.R.C.S. (Medical Superintendent) and Miss S. J. Cockrell, R.R.C. (Matron).

The prize-giving took place in an empty ward where there was a large platform, decorated with blue delphiniums and yellow gladioli.

Miss Broadbent took the chair, and in her introductory remarks mentioned the Nurses' curriculum of training, showing that the Prizes were not easily won.

She mentioned that they were very grateful to the Board for allowing them to keep their own Examiners for the Nurses—a Physician, a Surgeon, and a Trained Nurse—because there were Prizes for each subject, also Certificates of Special Merit for those who obtained 65 per cent. and over in the School Examinations.

Sir Francis Younghusband, in distributing the prizes also took occasion to express his warm admiration of the skill and efficiency of the nursing system, and emphasised the value of the spiritual side of the nurse's life, added to intellectual and professional proficiency, should, he said, be spiritual efficiency. Nurses must look upon their profession as a spiritual vocation.

The gold medal for the best all-round nurse went to Nurse Jeanne McIntyre, whose sister, Nurse Margaret McIntyre gained it last year. She is now working in India as a member of Lady Minto's Nursing Service, and it is rumoured that her sister intends to join her.

The Medical Superintendent remarked that it was a pity to see so much gold going out of the country. The gold medal is given by the Board to the best all-round Nurse of the year. In its award general conduct, general efficiency, good ward reports and examination results are considered besides votes from the Administrative Staff, the Ward Sisters, Staff Nurses, and Third Year Probationers. Miss Broadbent (the Chairman) said that, in spite of the difficulty of finding and keeping suitable girls, they had not done badly, for out of 120 presented last year, only ten failed to qualify.

The gold medallist presented a Victorian posy to Miss Broadbent, and one to Miss Walmsley, Inspector from the Ministry of Health, before they left the platform.

Miss Cockrell is a very experienced and capable Matron, and may be congratulated upon the excellent results of her method in the training of nurses, by no means an easy task in these days of necessarily high standards in theory, practice, and conduct.

In relation to Nursing, the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts has done much to demonstrate that the nurses trained in well-organised Nursing Schools connected with Poor Law Hospitals are able to pass both the theoretical and practical examination tests imposed by the General Nursing Councils, which administer the Acts, as creditably as those trained in the Voluntary General Hospitals.

Mr. George Ward, the Labour Candidate in the West Wilts election, in the course of an address to a meeting at Trowbridge, referring to the nursing profession, said:—"It was a common sight every day, wherever one went, collections here, barrel organs there, in aid of some nursing home. It was time the nursing profession was put on such a footing that the nurses, or others on their behalf, should not have to go round the pubs collecting pence to keep the nursing associations going."

As we go to press Prize Day, and the Re-union of the Nursing Staff is taking place at St. James's Hospital, Balham, always a very pleasant function.

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