

have been enrolled as Queen's nurses, and nine nursing associations have been affiliated. Grants amounting to £87 have been made to 12 nurses from the Tate (Sick) Fund, and four grants of £30 each have been made from the Queen's Nurses' Benefit Fund to Queen's Nurses who have resigned after gaining the long-service badge.

At the Annual Meeting of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, at which Sir William Collins presided, and which was held at the Offices of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, Embankment, E.C., on February 24th, it was reported that Dr. Scott Lidgett had been elected Chairman, and Miss Zöe L. Puxley, O.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee reported that the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities kindly renewed their grant of £100 for the provision of bursaries for Midwifery training to be awarded to nurses in federated Associations, who were prepared to undertake maternity nursing in London. Three vacancies for training had been secured, and were allocated to nurses from the Metropolitan District Nursing Association, the Hackney District Nursing Association and the Ranyard Nurses, thus making a total of twenty-two nurses who have benefited by the generosity of the Trustees in this way since the grants were first made. One nurse has already passed the Examination of the C.M.B.; the other two are now in training.

The Committee have again considered the possibility of securing fresh sources of income. On the death of Queen Alexandra the Queen's Jubilee Institute for Nurses issued an appeal for the support of that Institute as a national memorial, and this obviously made it impossible for the Council at the same time to launch an appeal for district nursing in London. On inquiry from the Special Committee of the Jubilee Institute it was ascertained that of contributions to the Appeal collected by District Nursing Associations, 50 per cent. would be devoted to the central expenses of the Institute and 50 per cent. retained by the Nursing Association making the collection. Of the large sums paid direct to the Queen's Jubilee Institute, it appeared that none would be used for purposes other than the central expenses of the Institute itself, and that it did not appear that any of the funds paid to the Institute will be devoted to giving grants to District Nursing Associations for the maintenance of the nursing of the sick poor in their own homes.

Sir William Collins, who was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year, made an interesting speech on the work of the Council.

Once again Lady FitzGerald is most kindly inviting Queen's Nurses for a holiday at Buckland, Berkshire, during the month of May.

Many will wish to avail themselves of a fortnight's rest and refreshment free of charge under most pleasant conditions in a charming country village. Applications should be made to Miss Tarver, Buckland Lodge, Faringdon, Berks, and a reference, either from the County Superintendent or the Head of a Queen's Home, should be enclosed.

Sir George Newman, M.D., in a Memorandum on Influenza issued by the Ministry of Health, writes:—

"Where, in serious epidemics, difficulty is experienced in securing early and adequate professional treatment of the cases as they arise there is sometimes advantage in forming a 'pool' of unattached medical men whose services can be placed at the disposal of practitioners as required. In the larger areas part of such a 'pool' may be formed by the use of the health authorities' own medical staff.

"Shortage of nurses is often a more serious problem, but much may be accomplished by subdividing the districts into small areas and using one or more nurses in each area as a nucleus round which a service of voluntary helpers can be gathered. In extreme emergencies it may even be advisable for a local authority to suspend temporarily its maternity and child welfare work and to liberate its health visitors for domiciliary nursing. The co-operation of the local district nursing association, if such exists, should be enlisted in carrying out any scheme of nursing which may be decided upon. Much can also be done in the way of providing home assistance. All cases coming to the notice of the health visitors may be carefully investigated, note being made as to the amount and kind of assistance needed. In certain districts it may be found desirable, during a period of special stress, that emergency kitchens should be improvised for the supply of food to affected households; it is often advisable to establish crèches for the reception of children from households where the parents are stricken with the disease.

"It is evident that in some directions local authorities can do much good by energetic action during a wave of epidemic prevalence. Measures can be taken which in the aggregate may reduce the opportunities of exposure to infection, and by thus helping to space out the epidemic something is done to prevent the serious dislocation of the ordinary life of the community which it produces—a dislocation which itself increases the danger by making proper care of the sick difficult. The most important services which can be rendered, however, consist in the *organisation of the available nursing service and the provision of assistance to influenza-stricken households.*"

At an inquest at Coventry the father of a seven-years' old-boy, who had died from scalds, said when he asked a nurse to come to the boy she declined.

It was two and a half hours, the father said, before a doctor could be secured.

The nurse said she was not allowed by the association employing her to attend anyone who was not a subscriber, but this was the first time she had refused. She did not understand the child was badly scalded.

The call of humanity in suffering should be the first duty of a nurse, and not a cash consideration. Such should be the rule of all district nursing associations.

Mr. Hugh Gibson, United States Minister in Switzerland, has been appointed Minister at Brussels. It was Mr. Hugh Gibson, who at a midnight conference in Brussels, acting for his chief, who was ill, pleaded so dramatically for the life of Edith Cavell.

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