

of the pioneers, of whom some were nurses, others teachers, and one of two university graduates, all of whom had soon helped to unearth many channels where enlightenment was essential and among whom the co-operative spirit was most evident.

She considered the introduction of a system of Grades for Health Visitors, according to qualifications, experience, duties and proportionate salaries would be beneficial as giving the incentive of promotion. In the present state of the profession there was very little prospect for the majority of Health Visitors having the opportunity of advancement in status.

Dr. Brodie went on to say the problem would be simplified by the use of the following titles, after full qualification, Health Visitors should be considered (a) Probationers; (b) Second-grade Health Visitors; (c) First-grade Health Visitors.

In conclusion, she emphasised the need of post-graduate courses of training on the lines of the Winter School which has been organised for the past seven years by the Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors' Association.

Dr. Brodie considered that to keep a Health Visitor well up to date in general and particular knowledge it would be a fair way to arrange so many weeks post-graduate leave for each two years of service.

Through the unavoidable absence of Dr. Wheatley, D.P.H., President of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, Dr. Hutt, Medical Officer of Health for Holborn, kindly read his paper on the need for improvement and standardisation of conditions of service for Health Visitors from the point of view of the Administrative Chief of a Public Health Department. Miss Sayle, M.B.E., of the W.S.I. and H.V. Association, dealt with the same subject from the point of view of the Health Visitors themselves.

The Memorandum drawn up by her Association, a copy of which had been supplied to all the delegates, proved conclusively the chaotic condition of affairs with regard to Health Visitors' appointments, where salaries, allowances, holidays, sick leave, promotion and superannuation were concerned.

The Association welcomed wholeheartedly the step recently taken by the Ministry of Health with regard to qualifications, when from April 1st, 1928, the Health Visitors' Certificate, granted by the Central Examining Body approved by the Ministry of Health, will be the only certificate recognised for all new entrants to the profession. She considered that the time had come for a similar change with regard to the many other matters which were before the Conference.

As things are at present the Health Visitor after spending three or four years and a considerable amount of money in the course of training could have no certainty at all as to the conditions of service under which she would work, with the exception of London. Here the definite scale of salaries recommended by the London District Council for Administrative, Technical and Clerical Services has been adopted by several Boroughs.

The case for a Register of Health Visitors was then put by Dr. Clark Trotter, D.P.H., F.R.S.E., Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Islington, and supported by Councillor Miss Bartleet, O.B.E., J.P., Birmingham.

The Conference ended with a resolution, put from the Chair and passed unanimously, asking the Minister of Health to appoint a committee of representatives of local authorities and health visitors to draw up suitable scales of salaries, holidays and other conditions of service.

The Annual Dinner of the W.S.I. and H.V. Association was held the next evening at the Hotel Great Central, when the President, Miss Tuckwell, welcomed the many Guests

of Honour, including Dame Janet Campbell, and members of the Association.

A most enjoyable evening was spent enlivened by the brilliant speeches of the representatives from Colleges, Schools of Medicine, and the House of Commons, in the person of Miss Margaret Bondfield, who proposed the toast of the Public Health Services. She could not have failed to gladden the hearts of all concerned when she said that when she thought of the zeal and devotion in the Service she longed to become lyrical.

G. LE G.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The Prime Minister has consented to speak at the United Woman Suffrage Demonstration, which will be held at the Queen's Hall, by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, on Thursday, March 8th, at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and among the speakers will be Sir Oliver Lodge, Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, and Miss Rebecca West. There will be community singing conducted by Mr. Martin Shaw.

Miss Ethel James, of Hoby, Leicestershire, secretary to the Leicestershire Farmers' Union, has received from the Prince of Wales a diamond brooch in the form of the Prince's Feathers, in recognition of her services in the organisation of the dinner which His Royal Highness recently gave to farmers.

DAFFODIL DAY.

The Servers of the Blind League, 3 Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1., celebrated the 80th anniversary of the birthday of their President Dame Ellen Terry, by holding a Daffodil Day in aid of her Homes for Blind Defective Children. The proceeds of the last Daffodil Day, which was held three years ago, were allocated to opening the first Home at Reigate. This Home is now too small for the work which is being carried on there and the Committee of the League is hoping to be able to acquire an additional building and thus accommodate the many children whose names are on the waiting list.

In arranging for Daffodil Day it was found practicable to organise the West End only on Monday, February 27th, but Daffodil Day will be held throughout the other parts of the Metropolitan Area on Saturday, March 17th. The League urgently needs a large number of helpers and will be grateful to hear from anyone who is willing to assist by selling Daffodils, lending motor cars or by sending donations.

We are informed by the Organising Secretary, Miss K. E. Lambe, that all communications and offers of help should be addressed to Dame Ellen Terry, 3, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1.

COMING EVENTS.

March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.—The British College of Nurses. Continuation of a course of 10 lectures on Elementary Psychology and its Application to Nursing, by Dr. T. R. Forsythe, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., 39, Portland Place, London, W. 7.30 p.m.

March 16th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Monthly Meeting, 20, Portland Place, London, W., 2.30 p.m.

March 24th.—The British College of Nurses. Council Meeting, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 3 p.m.

March 26th.—The British College of Nurses. Obligation Day, 39, Portland Place, London, W. 2.30–5 p.m.

April 26th.—The British College of Nurses. The first of a course of six lectures by Miss Gertrude Dearnley, M.D., on Gynaecology, 39, Portland Place, London. 6.30 p.m.

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