

on the districts—meeting together in this way? It means a broadening of one's vision, a deeper understanding of the scope of our profession, an opportunity to meet those sharing the same problems, difficulties and joys. It means sometimes a renewing of old friendships; always a making of new ones; sea, woods, swimming, walks, tennis, picnics, excursions to Sandringham, the Broads and other places. A happy spirit, a sense of fellowship, no discordant note to be found anywhere! Humour and laughter is rife among us, and we have our musicians, singers, and poets too! And this is not all, we have short family prayers after breakfast and occasional Bible study groups in the open—these are, of course, optional but have proved unanimously to be most helpful and interesting. Some of the nurses, too, give accounts of their work, such as that of the Serbian Retreat and of work in China and Africa, and inspirational addresses are given by some of our Camp mothers, also by Sheringham friends. In short, N.M.L. Camp means rest, exercise, beauty, fellowship, fun and a Vision of the One who is amongst us all, giving us strength and courage to face the future with Him.

LEGAL MATTERS.

We quote the following paragraphs from the annual report of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, Inc., under heading, "Applications from Members for Legal Assistance":—

(f) A NURSE, DEVON AND CORNWALL BRANCH.—In August, 1928, an application was received from the President of the Branch for legal assistance on behalf of the member in connection with an inquest which was to be held on the death of an aged inmate of the institution in which the nurse was serving. The Branch President was authorised to instruct a local solicitor to appear on behalf of the nurse at the inquest, which resulted in a verdict that the inmate's death was due to "Misadventure." The solicitor's costs in this case, which amounted to £5 5s., have been paid by the Association.

(g) A PROBATIONER NURSE, MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—In October, 1928, a Staff Nurse (not a member of the Association) and a Probationer Nurse (a member) were weighing infants before a fire. The scale pan evidently got hot and burnt the arms of three infants slightly, which was not then noticed. In the case of one of the babies, the burns spread, and on October 22nd it died. Instructions were given from the Head Office to the Branch Secretary to engage a solicitor to appear at the inquest on behalf of the Probationary nurse. At the inquest, it was announced that the staff nurse had been discharged as a result of the case. At the close of the hearing, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." The costs in this case are being paid by the Association.

(h) A PROBATIONER NURSE, STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—In February, 1929, the probationer nurse was in the children's ward bathing a child aged fourteen weeks, when she heard a noise from an adjoining room and left the child for a few minutes to attend to the children who were responsible for the commotion. On her return, she found that the child had come into contact with the hot-water radiator and burnt itself rather badly, with the unfortunate result that the child died a few days later. Although the child was also suffering from pulmonary trouble, it was necessary for the coroner to hold an inquest. In view of the fact that charges might be made against the nurse at the inquest, it was deemed to be advisable to arrange for her to be legally represented, and a solicitor was instructed on her behalf. After evidence had been given by the child's mother, the nurse herself, and a doctor, the jury returned a verdict that the child died from accidental burns and that the nurse had done everything that could be done under the circumstances, and was not at all to blame. The solicitor's costs in this case, amounting to £2 2s., have been paid by the Association.

In our opinion the verdicts in cases (g) and (h) are not calculated to prevent such sad deaths in the future. In both cases, adequate care on the part of the nurses would have prevented such accidents, and we can only hope that the authorities of the institutions where injuries resulting in death were inflicted, have informed those to blame of their serious disapproval of the lack of common sense and sense of responsibility exhibited in both instances.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

The one hundred and third meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales was held on Friday June 14th, at 20, Portland Place, London, W., at 2.30 p.m. Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C. was in the Chair.

Finance.

The Revenue Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending March 31st, 1929, was presented by Dr. Fawcett, Chairman of the Finance Committee, who explained that the expenditure for the year (£30,425 14s. 6d.) was rather less than last year, due principally to the expense of the election of the elected members of the Council included in last year's account. Also there were reductions in the cost of fuel, light and water, in the printing of the Register and other expenses. There was a deficit on the year's working, but this was really a book deficit, due to a change in the presentation of the accounts recommended by the Government Auditor. The fees for the May examination were paid in advance and were received before the end of the financial year. The Auditor recommended that they should be included in the year in which the examination was held. The fees for the May Examination had therefore been put to the forthcoming year (ending March 31st, 1930) and this method would be adopted for the future.

Dr. Fawcett said that the financial position might be regarded as satisfactory, but having regard to expenditure on upkeep and repair of the house which the Council had to meet, the Finance Committee did not consider that it was possible at present to reduce the fees paid by the nurses for examination and registration.

The Council would receive with pleasure the statement of the Government Auditor that he was pleased to note that the accounts were carefully kept.

Consideration of the Auditor's report was deferred to be taken later *in camera*.

Bills and claims submitted for payment were approved, and £100 for stamps, £20 for insurance stamps and £10 for petty cash allowed.

The expenditure of £173 5s. on repairs and decorations, and £13 13s. on an additional Neopost Meter Mailing Machine was sanctioned.

The Finance Committee reported that in accordance with authority granted at the Council Meeting on May 24th, the sum of £2,590 had been invested in London and North Eastern Railway 4 per cent. Debenture Stock, costing £1,998 11s. 3d.

Registration.

The applications of six Registered Nurses for duplicate silver badges were granted.

Applications of three nurses for admission to the General Part of the Register, by reciprocity, and of four nurses for admission to the Supplementary Part of the Register for Fever Nurses, by examination, were approved.

It was also agreed to include in the Register the names of 21 nurses who had hitherto failed to pay their Retention Fee, and who now wished their names re-included in the Register.

Education and Examination.

The Education and Examination Committee reported that Preliminary Final State Examinations were held on the following dates. *Written*, Preliminary, May 14th, Final, May 15th. *Oral and Practical*, Preliminary, May 21st-24th, (Manchester, 28th-31st), Final, from May 28th-31st, and that the Results and Pass Lists would be ready for presentation to the next meeting of the Council.

The Manor Hospital, Walsall Union, was approved as a complete training school for nurses.

previous page

next page