

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

We have pleasure in presenting on this page a portrait of Miss Jane Thornton Ruddy, S.R.N., M.B.C.N., Matron of the High Grove Sanatorium, East Grinstead, who was elected President of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association at its last Annual Meeting in succession to Miss S. A. Villiers, F.B.C.N. Miss Ruddy received her training at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and has been Acting Matron of the Isolation Hospital, Yarnfield, Stone, and at the Merthyr General Hospital, and as a member of Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. worked from 1917-1919 at Lord Derby's War Hospital, Warrington, and was subsequently Matron at the Isolation Hospital, Stone, and at Branston Hall Sanatorium, Lincoln.

THE LEAGUE OF SISTER TUTORS.

The Annual Meeting of the League of Sister Tutors will be held at the College Farm, Finchley, by kind permission of the Express Dairy Company, on October 17th, at 2.30 p.m. All Sister Tutors are invited to attend, and are asked to notify the Hon. Secretary, at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, whether they are able to accept this invitation.

THE TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

Mrs. E. A. Watts, S.R.N., Hon. General Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, is to be congratulated on the Handbook which she has compiled for 1931. Originally issued in 1917 as a Supplement of 28 pages to the *Nursing Journal of India*, it has been twice enlarged, and the present edition, "the result of about two years of persistent enquiry and compilation," is a handsome volume of 184 pages, bound in crimson cloth, and lettered in gold. It includes many interesting illustrations both of

persons and places, and a facsimile letter from Miss Florence Nightingale, written from 10, South Street, Park Lane, W., in July 1886, to the Rev. J. Murdoch, Secretary in Madras of the Christian Literature Society.

The "Short History of Nursing in India," which constitutes the first chapter in the Handbook, elicits from ancient chronicles the fact that "Hospices were built for men and animals, and trained attendants, under the direction of skilled physicians, were provided. Methods of home nursing and knowledge of drugs and herbs that were in use in centuries B.C. may be traced through to present day usage, but instructions for the care of the sick passed out of existence a thousand years ago."

The objective of the Training Schools for Nurses, be they Government or Missionary, is to provide for India, from India, a force of efficient, fully-trained nurses sufficient to meet and satisfy the needs for nursing care for India's

vast population, and to care for the future training of future generations of nurses. This objective has not even begun to be met—a statement supported by the following statistics. Government Training Schools for Nurses 55; Mission 104; total number of Student Nurses, 847; while the population of British India in the 1921 census is given as 241,469,026, and of the Native States as 35,470,453.

During one decade (1915-1924) the deaths in British India from plague, cholera, malaria, dysentery and diarrhoea alone reached the appalling total of 58,273,447; it will therefore be realised that the problem of providing sufficient trained nurses "to satisfy the needs for nursing care for India's vast population" is a stupendous one.

We are reminded that "sanitation in India, which plays so important a part as a preventive measure in combating such scourges, finds its origin in the direct and relentless leadership of that great pioneer of modern and scientific nursing, Florence Nightingale."

Next we have the History of the Trained Nurses' Association of India which, beginning as the Association of Nursing Superintendents a brief quarter of a century ago, with nine members, has now a membership of nearly six hundred. There follow its Memorandum of Association, Constitution and By-laws. We note in By-law 2, defining "Eligibility to become a member," that "no nurse shall be admitted to active membership whose training began after 1907 unless she has a certificate of three years' training from a recognised training school; or in the case of nurses trained in American hospitals recognised by the I.C.N., where the training is less than three years, a certificate of not less than two years' training together with a State Registration certificate. We should point out therefore that the International Council of Nurses does not recognise hospitals, but that the standard approved by it for "trained professional women" is "certification after a minimum of three years' continuous training in recognised qualified training schools." The nursing authorities

in each country are left to recognise the training schools.

It is interesting to note that the *Nursing Journal of India* was founded by the issue of 91 shares of five rupees each to 26 members. These shares, which were issued without any guarantee of payment, and bearing no interest, have all been paid back. A journal founded on so altruistic a basis deserves success.

The Constitution and By-laws of the International Council of Nurses are published, and much useful and interesting information concerning Nursing Services and Associations in India and Registration of Nurses in India, and a very interesting article on "The Training of Nurses in India, its Problems and Prospects." Altogether a very well-produced volume, published by the Trained Nurses' Association of India, Kilpaut, Madras, price one rupee-eight annas.



MISS JANE THORNTON RUDDY, S.R.N., M.B.C.N.
Matron of the High Grove Sanatorium, East Grinstead.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)