

Hospital development in Hastings and St. Leonards since the War has been great. The latest addition is a new Nurses' Home and Lecture Hall which have been presented to the Buchanan Hospital by Councillor Arthur Thorpe, J.P., whose gifts to hospital work in the town during the last decade have been exceptionally generous.

This new Home is absolutely up-to-date in every way and the lecture and teaching hall is completely equipped with the latest models and appliances connected with the science of instruction in nursing.

The Home is being opened by Lord Meston of Agra on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 7th.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND THE BROCKWAY BILL.

The following letter has been addressed by the College of Nursing to the Chairmen of the Boards of Governors of the various hospitals, and we have been requested to publish it by a recipient:—

NURSING PROFESSION (WAGES AND HOURS) BILL.

"In December last a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Fenner Brockway, M.P., to regulate "working hours and wages" for all nurses and probationers. The Bill provides for a working week of 44 hours and salaries for probationers of £40 for the first year, £50 for the second year and £60 for the third year.

The College of Nursing does not consider it desirable that the hours and salaries of nurses should be regulated by an Act of Parliament and is, therefore, not in sympathy with the above Bill.

Hours of Duty.—The College is nevertheless strongly of the opinion that nurses should not be on duty for more than 56 hours per week either on day or night duty. These hours might be spread over a fortnight but in no case should a nurse be on duty in any one day or night for more than ten hours, including attendance at compulsory lectures. It is with great regret that the Council learns that longer hours are in force at present in many Institutions for the sick.

It will be readily understood that as long as conditions exist, even in a small number of Hospitals, which it is impossible publicly to defend, the College of Nursing in its opposition to such legislative interference is very much handicapped, since the only conclusive answer to those who would remedy things by legislation is the voluntary reduction of hours of duty when necessary by those who employ nurses.

The College, therefore, makes an earnest appeal to you to take steps to reduce the hours on duty, if you have not already done so, to a maximum of 56 hours per week day or night duty for all members of your Nursing Staff.

Salaries.—Since the professional education already given without premium to probationers is in itself a valuable asset, the College considers that some of the salaries offered to probationers, and also those suggested in the above Bill, are excessive and indeed extravagant. Further improvement is however, required in the remuneration of fully-trained nurses, so that it may be more commensurate with the responsibilities they are called upon to undertake. This also is a matter in which the College hopes that Hospital Authorities will see fit to effect the desired improvements without the aid of legislation.

In conclusion, the object of this letter is to ask all those who are not in favour of legislative interference to use their influence to reduce the hours of duty of all nurses in Hospitals to 56 hours per week as a maximum, and to bring the salaries of the trained staff up at least to the College minimum scale (a copy of which is enclosed), together with participation in an adequate Superannuation Scheme."

TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCH.

AWARD OF DOROTHY TEMPLE CROSS FELLOWSHIPS.

The Medical Research Council announce that they have made the following awards of Dorothy Temple Cross Fellowships for 1931-32, under the terms of the benefaction in that name for research Fellowships in tuberculosis:— Charles Allan Birch, M.D., M.R.C.P., Senior Medical Registrar and Tutor, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool; Roy Lars Vollum, M.A., D.Phil., Demonstrator in Pathology, University of Oxford.

Dr. Birch has received a Fellowship for the study of problems of tuberculosis at industrial centres in the United States. Dr. Vollum will study recent developments in methods for the investigation of tuberculosis in Germany and Austria.

The Fellowship awarded last year to Lieutenant Sidney Malcolm Burrows, R.A.M.C., late Clinical Assistant, Tuberculosis Department, St. Thomas's Hospital, has been renewed for a further year.

URGENCY CASES HOSPITAL.

BAR-LE-DUC-REVIGNY, 1915-1918.

The Thirteenth Annual Dinner will take place on Saturday, 31st October, 1931, at Canuto's Restaurant, 88, Baker Street, London, W.1 (entrance in Paddington Street), at 6.45 for 7 o'clock.

The party will adjourn at 9 o'clock to 1a, Portman Mansions (a few minutes' walk from the restaurant), where Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth will also be very happy to see any member of the staff who is unable to be present at the dinner.

R.S.V.P. to Mr. A. H. Lloyd, 28, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1, from whom dinner tickets at 7s. 6d. (exclusive of wine) and all information may be obtained.

CHANGE OF NAME.

Miss Lavinia Ganga Mewa Ram wishes her nurse friends in England to know that she is to be known for the future by her full name as above—the last name of which she has not used for some time. Thus the surname will be Ram instead of Mewa, as it appears on the State Register at present.

Miss Lavinia Ram is one of a limited few Indian ladies who have fulfilled three years' general training in England, and who has been registered by examination. She has taken further training in maternity and child welfare in India. Indian pupils so gentle and sympathetic make valuable nurses, and the more of them who enter the nursing profession the better.

Writing from Jubbulpore, India, Miss Ram says: "Let me congratulate you for making the British College so well known and so successful as it is to-day. . . . I hope you will note change of address, and send me our Journal again, as I do miss reading the interesting articles which appear monthly."

One of the sisters who nursed in the Græco-Turkish War in 1897 asks us to find space to record a kindness then done by the late Sir Thomas Lipton. She writes:—"I took to Mrs. Fenwick from him six cases of delicious tea; we nurses were all so grateful."

We well remember those cases, and how one which was not under lock and key disappeared. The patients, too, learnt to appreciate and look forward to refreshing cups of tea.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)