

curved to the shape of the wings of the Air Force crest, bearing the inscription—

“ This seat was given by
his friends
in memory of
Nigel Benjamin Cohen,
Student of this Hospital,
Killed flying his own aeroplane,
September 18th, 1931.
Aged 23.”

In separate corners there had been placed two lead cisterns with the inscription, “ St. B. H. 1782.” These were found during excavations when the rebuilding was in progress. Lovers of Kensington Gardens will be reminded of the decorative effect produced by those similar in pattern in the Dutch Garden, close to Kensington Palace.

Another interesting decoration in this peaceful spot is the capital of an old Corinthian column, its origin lost in obscurity—now cleverly converted into a bird bath.

A charming programme of music and a refreshing tea made of the afternoon a delightful reunion.

TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

Miss M. E. Abram, President of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, is already arousing the interest of its members in the Paris-Brussels Congress in July, 1933, as she is of opinion that the Association should be well represented, and the question of financing a delegate must be considered, and she invites the District Secretaries to set immediate schemes in motion for raising funds.

THE GRADING OF NURSING SCHOOLS.

Training schools in the opinion of the American Nurses' Association, must curtail the steady production of more nurses or the morale of the nursing profession will break down completely. This is the opinion of the Committee on the Grading of Nursing Schools, following an analysis of early returns of the 1930 census on workers.

How serious the over supply of graduate nurses has become is revealed by the Grading Committee after tabulating figures for eighteen States and the District of Columbia. For this group, since the 1920 census, the total population has increased 7 per cent., while the total number of trained nurses has increased 78 per cent.

Although there are still areas of the country and groups of patients not properly nursed, owing to poor distribution and lack of special training, the figures for the forty-two cities studied show that the average nurse has no more than 149 days of employment in any given year, according to the present sickness rate. In Bangor, Maine, she has not more than 77 days of work, and in Ottumwa, Iowa, where employment conditions are best among the cities studied, she can work not more than 201 days in the year. Rates for the other cities range between these two.

States as a whole are somewhat less oversupplied with nurses, although in New Hampshire the nurse can expect no more than 190 days of work in the year, and in Maine, Vermont, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Delaware, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho and the District of Columbia there is not nearly enough nursing to be divided between the trained and untrained nurses competing for patients.

Untrained nurses are not on the increase, census figures show, but trained nurses are being turned out to terrific competition by the thousands each year. In Maine, for example, there was in 1900 one trained nurse for every 5,068 persons; in 1910, there was one for every 910; in 1920, one for every 579, and in 1930 one for every 349.

“ If nursing is to avoid disaster,” says Dr. May Ayres Burgess in presenting these figures in the March number of the *American Journal of Nursing*, “ the steady production of more students, who become graduates, must cease. It must cease not only in the small schools, but in most of the large schools as well. Graduate nurses must be employed. If they are unemployable, they must be re-educated. The schools of nursing have produced them. They are members of the profession. Unless their morale is to break down completely, they must either be eliminated or utilised.”

“ This is a year of national economic distress. Hospitals are short of funds. How, then, can hospitals take care of their patients with reduced numbers of student nurses, with increased numbers of graduate nurses, and without increasing the annual budget? Let us not assume that there is no solution for this problem. Nurses who are intimately familiar with hospital administration may be able to discover new economies, new methods of organisation, which will make reductions in the number of student nurses possible. Unless some solution can be found, which it is within the practical means of the hospital to adopt, nursing will continue to grow in numbers and in distress.”

What the census figures will show for densely populated states, such as Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and California, no one yet knows, but nursing leaders feel grave concern. Census reports for these and other States are being analysed by the Grading Committee as rapidly as they become available.

“ Even with the over production of nurses, there still exists the unnursed patient,” comments Miss Mary M. Roberts, R.N., editor of the *American Journal of Nursing*. “ Many persons are chronically sick at home; among these are persons suffering from arthritis. New and scientific knowledge on the care of arthritis brings new opportunities in nursing. The field of psychiatric nursing, too, is hardly touched. Patients with heart disease and tuberculosis require special nursing care. Some of the unemployed nurses can well take up special training that will fit them for these types of service.”

BOOKS FOR REVIEW.

We have received two important books for review. (1) “ The History of St. Thomas's Hospital.” Vol. I. From the Earliest Times until A.D. 1600. By F. G. Parsons, D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.S.A. Published by Methuen & Co., Ltd., London; price 10s. 6d. net, and

(2) “ A General History of Nursing.” By Lucy Ridgely Seymer, M.A. (Oxon.), S.R.N. Published by Faber & Faber, Ltd., 12s. 6d. net, illustrated with 24 pages of photographs.

We have only had time to peep into these two important works—both of which will be extensively reviewed in future issues of this journal—but “ The History of St. Thomas's Hospital ” is of extreme interest to those associated with our Royal Hospitals, and appears to be a very fascinating book.

“ A General History of Nursing.”

We are informed on the cover of this book that it is “ based on exhaustive research, much of it carried out in the records of the International Council at Geneva, and contains information about modern nursing history that is not to be found elsewhere.” As these records are the property of the International Council of Nurses, compiled at great cost through the instrumentality of its constituent members, it will be interesting to learn what financial arrangement has been made by Messrs. Faber & Faber with the I.C.N. for the wholesale utilisation of its archives for commercial purposes.

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