

NURSES' SUGGESTIONS IN STEMMING THE STREAM OF NURSING SCHOOL GRADUATES.

Aid in stemming the increasing stream of nursing school graduates is asked of hospital trustees throughout the United States by organised nursing in an open letter recently posted. The letter bears the signatures of the presidents of the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, the National Organisation for Public Health Nursing, and of the chairman of the committee on distribution of nursing service of the A.N.A.

Five ways in which hospitals may balance the extra cost involved in employing larger numbers of graduate nurses are enumerated in the letter, following a brief picture of present overcrowding in the nursing profession. Further suggestions are sought from the hospital trustees.

"The broken morale of thousands of unemployed nurses has begun to react most unfavourably not on the number of young women applying but on the quality of applicants for enrolment in schools of nursing," says the letter. "This will inevitably increase when economic conditions improve, unless the interested groups—hospitals, doctors and nurses—take effective action."

The best thought of all groups concerned will be needed to work out the adjustments in nursing service that the next few years will require, the letter points out. But certain steps can be taken now, it contends, to help tide the nurses over the present crisis without adding to the financial embarrassment of the hospitals. These steps will also provide a sound basis for future development, it is believed.

The nurses' suggestions for the present are as follows:—

1. Better selection of students, thus cutting down the cost of carrying large numbers of probationers for several months only to eliminate from 25 to 50 per cent. of them.

2. Employment of ward helpers, maids, orderlies, attendants, and secretaries to do a large amount of the routine work done by students.

3. Strengthening of hospital organisation by the employment of graduate nurses who are available at relatively low salaries, thus giving the doctors nursing service uninterrupted by class attendance, and the patients the care of more experienced nurses.

4. Tuition fees for students in schools offering a sound and well organised teaching programme; also use of facilities of nearby educational institutions to save part of the cost.

5. Abolishment of allowances and use of the funds for teaching the students.

"The nurses' problem is due not chiefly to the economic depression but to the weakness of a system of accepting students primarily as workers in the hospital instead of selecting them as potential graduates for service in their community in the various types of nursing," the letter concludes.

WHAT TO READ.

"Up the Amazon and Over the Andes." Violet O. Cressy-Marcks.

"Pre War." Earl Winterton.

"Talks with Mussolini." Emil Ludwig.

"The Second Empire." Philip Guedalla.

"The Empress Carola Oman." Daughter of Henry I. of England.

"Obscure Destinies." Willa Cather.

"Animal Stories" from Rudyard Kipling.

"Mary Webb: Her Life and Work." Thomas Moulton.

"Within the Precincts of the Prison." Arnold Lunn.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Shortly after Lord Knutsford's death a Remembrance Fund was inaugurated at the London Hospital.

The fund has reached a total of £13,395 and will be expended to carry out his expressed wishes at the last Court he attended before his death, when he appealed for funds for (a) improved and increased accommodation for maternity cases, (b) new stores, (c) a new Massage and Electrical Department, and (d) a students' hostel. Allocations from the Remembrance Fund have accordingly been made which will enable the first two items to be completed, and a grant has been made to the students' hostel sufficient to justify a start being made with the building. In addition a sum has been assigned to the new Massage and Electrical Department.

It has also been decided to place a commemorative tablet in the entrance of the hospital recording the late chairman's work, not only for the London Hospital but for humanity.

By the gracious permission of the King and with the consent of the Duke and Duchess of York, the East London Hospital for Children, Shadwell, E.1, will in future be known as the Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children.

The hospital was founded by Nathaniel Heckford, a young doctor, and his wife, a nurse at the Wapping Cholera Hospital, in 1868, both moved by the terrible suffering of the children of the East End of London sixty years ago. They acquired a former house of refuge for the homeless and a sailmakers' warehouse for £2,000, and on the first anniversary of their wedding opened the buildings as a hospital with 10 beds. The first patient was taken off a heap of straw in a hovel in Gin Alley.

In consequence of the announcement that Major J. J. Astor, M.P., was the anonymous donor in 1920 of the gift of £20,000 for the endowment of the University Chair of Physiology at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, it was decided that the title of this chair should now be the "John Astor Chair of Physiology tenable at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School."

An anonymous offer of sums up to £20,000 towards an administration fund was announced at the opening of the new Christie Cancer Hospital at Withington, Manchester.

It was reported that already about £30,000 had been raised, and now an offer had been received from an anonymous source that when £50,000 had been raised, a sum of £1,000 would be provided for every £1,000 that was collected up to a liability for the donor of £20,000.

Lord Derby, who opened the hospital said that they were doing something which was opening the gates of health to many, not only in this country, but throughout the world.

The General Medical Council wisely permits full details of penal cases to be reported by the Press, so that the public may form its own judgment of the conclusions arrived at by the Council. A number of motoring offences were dealt with during its recent sitting, and in one case we note for the first time that a nurse testified to the main facts, that alcohol was originally taken because the doctor suffered from malaria and sandfly fever. She spoke of his devotion and skill in his professional work, which let us hope will be taken into consideration. The Council held that the charges were proved, but postponed their decision until the November, 1933, session, when testimony of his conduct in the meantime would be required.

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