

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT.

SCHOOL NURSING SISTERS.

The Central Public Health Committee of the London County Council, has effected reform in substituting probationer nurses to replace institute nurses, which proved most unsatisfactory and costly owing to the fact that the fee paid per week was far below the standard fee of highly qualified private nurses. Thus unregistered, partially trained nurses were often supplied by proprietary institutes. The Committee reports:—

"In connection with a scheme for the engagement, at general hospitals and institutions under our management, of probationer nurses to replace institute nurses, the Council on November 10th, 1931, agreed that the fixed staff of the public health department under our direction should be temporarily increased for a period of one year as from and including January 1st, 1932, by two positions of school nursing sister, the holders to act as assistants to the matron-in-chief, and on December 13th, 1932, continued the two temporary positions for three months from January 1st, 1933. The appointment of the two nursing sisters permitted the placing of the engagement of temporary nursing staff under central control. The result has been a substantial saving in the cost of the engagement of institute nurses. In the year 1931 the cost of institute nurses was estimated at £25,410, whereas in the year 1932 the expenditure for this purpose was £5,950, and although £4,360 additional expenditure was involved by the engagement of 114 probationer nurses as part of the 150 authorised by the Council, the combined cost of both institute and probationer nurses amounted to only £10,310 for the year 1932.

In these circumstances, we are satisfied that the new arrangements have resulted and will continue to result in substantial savings, and that the Council will be well advised to make the two temporary positions of nursing sister substantive with effect from April 1st, 1933.

The scale of salary of a school nursing sister is £235—£12 10s.—£260, plus laundry allowance at the rate of £10 a year and uniform (valued at £10 a year), but in the present instances the allowances mentioned should be in the form of a special allowance of £20 a year. The officers concerned should be subject to the hours of duty and holidays appropriate to corresponding grades of the central administrative staff.

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF DIETETICS.

The London School of Dietetics have offered a Scholarship, value Thirty Guineas, to meet the fees of the next Full-time Course at the School, from July 3rd to September 29th, 1933

The Scholarship is open to persons, of either sex, of British birth and parentage. To overcome the difficulty of travelling for an examination, entrants should submit an essay written in their own handwriting on "A Criticism of 'Hungry England' as discussed in the 'Week-end Review,' issued Feb. 4th *et seq.*" The essay must be written on one side of the paper, and headed with the entrant's name, age and address. It must be accompanied by a copy of the entrant's birth certificate, and postal order for ten shillings, being examination fee. It must reach the Organising Secretary of the School, 20-22, Chenies Street, W.C.1, not later than June 21st, and the result will be posted to all entrants on June 26th. The decision of the School Officers is final, no correspondence can be entered into regarding the Scholarship, and a stamped addressed envelope must accompany every entry. Any contravention of these rules disqualifies.

THE PASSING BELL.

MISS ELINOR PELL SMITH, S.R.N.

It is with very deep regret that we have received the sad news of the death of a dear old friend, an earnest pioneer of nursing organisation.

Miss Elinor Pell Smith died on April 25th, 1933, at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, at the age of 74.

She entered Leicester Royal Infirmary as a Lady Probationer in January, 1878, when Miss Burt from St. John's House was Matron. When Miss Burt left to take the appointment of Matron of Guy's Hospital, she invited Miss Pell Smith to accompany her, but this she did not do. She had charge of a Men's Ward, and later went to St. Bartholomew's Hospital under Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. She was appointed Matron of the Mansfield and Woodhouse Hospital, and left that appointment to start a "Home Hospital" in Leicester. The Nursing Home continued for 34 years, and was given up in 1924, but Miss Pell Smith lived in part of the same house until the time of her last illness.

Miss Pell Smith took an active part in the Nurses Registration Campaign, and has always been deeply interested in all Nursing matters. She was a Vice-President of the Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League; in 1914 she helped to found the Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives' Association, and was its President from 1914 to 1932, when owing to failing health she resigned, and was made Honorary President. She was an enthusiastic Church worker, and a Church Warden of St. George's Church, Leicester, for several years. She was also a member of the Guild of St. Barnabas. Her activities continued until the time of her last illness, when she returned to her Training School to be nursed. Her tall figure and pleasant personality will be missed by many in Leicester.

The funeral service was held on April 28th at St. George's Church, and the full Church was a great testimony to her work and personality. The body was afterwards cremated.

AN APPRECIATION.

An appreciative friend writes: By the death of Miss Elinor Pell Smith, of Leicester, there has passed away a widely beloved member of the Nursing Profession. She was a deeply religious, public spirited and courageous woman, caring not at all for popularity, but concerned only to support the right. From the beginning of nursing organisation, down through the troublous years which preceded the passing of the Nurses' Registration Acts, she supported with her pen, with liberal financial help, by her presence at meetings in London, and with vigorous speech the principle of self-government for nurses, in which she ardently believed, and for which she unflinchingly strove.

She was not only a fine nurse, devoting her talents to the organisation of a Home Hospital, in connection with which she maintained as long ago as 1898 that all the nurses should hold three years' certificates of training, but she was also so much respected by midwives that when they formed their Association in Leicestershire they chose her as their President.

She was a true and loyal hearted friend and this world is the poorer for her passing, but we may be sure that in the higher service to which she has now been called she still remembers the nursing profession which she loved and served so well, and will help it in ways that we cannot know, but the effects of which will be felt for good.

WHAT TO READ.

- "The Royal Line of France." E. Thornton Cook.
- "The Second Son." Dominique Dunois.
- "Tropical Waters." Ronald Fraser.
- "The Street of the Sandlemakers." Nils Petersen.
- "Little Man What Now." Hans Fallada.

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