

Board of Examiners to the General Nursing Council, and Miss Milne, Matron of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

For examination purposes and the award of medals, the hospitals have been divided into seven groups, of which the general hospitals form five, and the special hospitals two. We regret to note that for this purpose Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton, has been included with the general and not the special hospitals. A hospital for children only can never be a general hospital, and it is a fundamental mistake to class it as such.

In each of the seven groups a gold medal is to be awarded annually to the nurse who obtains the highest aggregate number of marks for all examinations and practical ward work throughout the period of training, provided she obtains a certain percentage of marks in every examination, and not less than 75 per cent. for practical ward work.

Silver and bronze medals are also awarded to each nurse who attains a defined standard; and classified certificates to every nurse who satisfactorily completes her period of training and passes the requisite examination.

"All nurses in training are entered for the State Examination conducted by the General Nursing Council, and of 708 who entered from the general hospitals for the Final State Examination in 1931, 506 passed. Of 334 who entered from the special hospitals, 244 passed.

"During the year 279 nurses who had completed their three years' general training were given the privilege of remaining in the Council's service for another year to take free midwifery training (with a salary at the rate of £50 per annum) and of this number 242 were successful in obtaining the certificate of the Central Midwives Board."

This is a very valuable privilege, which will, no doubt be much sought after, and highly prized when obtained. It should be the aim of every nurse to add midwifery to her qualification in general nursing, besides which many posts are only open to those who possess it.

"The nurses who failed in either the State Examinations or the Central Midwives Board Examination will re-enter at the next opportunity."

It will be realised that the Public Health work now entrusted to the London County Council is both onerous and highly expert and responsible.

## RAVAGES OF RHEUMATISM.

### AN URGENT INDUSTRIAL PROBLEM.

#### Sir Arthur Stanley on the Need for Treatment Centres.

Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, referred to the possibility of a "circuit of Clinics" for the treatment of rheumatism at the first of a series of lectures on Rheumatism as a Public Health Problem, which the Royal Institute of Public Health has recently arranged.

Professor W. Langdon Brown, M.D., F.R.C.P., Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge University, was the lecturer.

Introducing the lecturer, Sir Arthur Stanley said that the importance of rheumatism as an industrial problem had not yet been fully realised, and he hoped that the course of lectures the Royal Institute of Public Health had arranged would, in its own way, serve to focus attention on what was really one of the most urgent industrial problems of the day.

Many figures had been prepared showing the appalling wastage caused, among the working classes in particular, by rheumatism in its many forms. The most striking was still the report of the Ministry of Health, which showed that not less than one-sixth of the "industrial invalidity" of this country was due to diseases classed as rheumatic.

### Cured or Improved.

"Three years ago," said Sir Arthur Stanley, "thanks to the interest taken in the subject by the Approved Societies, and to the generosity of private donors, notable among them the late Sir Otto Beit, I was enabled to open what was then the first, and what is still the only, fully-equipped Clinic in the country for the treatment of rheumatism. During the three years it has been at work, the Red Cross Clinic for Rheumatism has shown some very striking results, and last year alone over half the patients discharged after treatment were classified as cured or improved. This figure is more striking when I say that of the male patients treated, no fewer than 58 per cent. were able to carry on work as the result of that treatment.

"But the British Red Cross Clinic in Peto Place, striking as is the work it is doing, is only touching the fringe of the subject. Its fame has spread the whole world over, and every year we have visitors, not from the Home Country alone, but from the Dominions and Colonies and from foreign countries, to inspect it. But it is serving only London and the immediately surrounding districts; it is unable to help the thousands of sufferers in other big industrial centres.

### First in the Field.

"The provision of treatment centres in other parts of the country is one which the British Red Cross Society has very prominently in mind, and it has long been my hope that in the not too distant future it will be possible for it, aided, it may be, by industrial concerns, which more and more are coming to recognise the seriousness of the wastage caused among their own workpeople by rheumatism, to set up Clinics on the lines of the Peto Place Clinic in several of our great provincial cities.

"Something of the sort must sooner or later be done, and when the time comes I hope the British Red Cross Society will be first in the field.

"In the first place its Clinic in Peto Place was frankly experimental. Now we have at our disposal the experience of three years' work. We have made mistakes, and we have corrected them. And it is therefore to the Red Cross that many people are looking for a lead when the present economic crisis has passed.

### Circuit of Clinics.

"A subject of this importance cannot, I feel, be tackled on parochial lines, and I visualise what I might call a circuit of Clinics, drawing on our experience, which will at last give us that nation-wide campaign which alone can rid us of the ravages of rheumatism.

"I am glad to see that the matter is being taken up in academic circles. Frankly, I had always thought that the medical profession was rather bored with it. But even the medical profession is moving with the times. And I pay tribute here, as I have paid tribute many times elsewhere, to the loyal and very valuable service it has given to us in our Clinic, and to the valuable research work it is carrying out there."

Among the other lecturers taking part in the series are Dr. R. Fortescue Fox, M.D., F.R.C.P., Chairman of the International League for Combating Rheumatism; Dr. C. W. Buckley, M.D., M.R.C.P., Senior Physician at the Devonshire Hospital, Buxton, and a Member of the British Medical Association Committee on Arthritis; Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, M.B., M.R.C.P., Honorary Physician at the Red Cross Clinic for Rheumatism, and Miss M. W. Edmiston, Senior Lady Almoner at the Clinic.

Following the Course a Demonstration, open to Fellows and Members of the Institute of Public Health and to medical students, is to be given at the British Red Cross Society's Clinic for Rheumatism on February 22nd.

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