

Several of the countries give special training in public health nursing, sometimes lasting as long as six months, to undergraduate students as part of their basic training. This has been listed as post-graduate work in these countries and perhaps may be accounted as such in that it succeeds work in the hospital, though it is not given to graduate nurses. It is noteworthy that some form of special preparation for the public health field is obtainable in most of the countries. In those where this is not the case, foreign opportunity has been utilised. It is a significant fact that no country is without nurses who, in addition to their hospital training, have had the advantage of special training in public health nursing.

Courses are offered under Government leadership by departments of health, both national, municipal and county, by universities and colleges, by the Red Cross, by a National Nurses' Association, by an insurance company, and internationally by the League of Red Cross societies. The percentage of nurses who have taken advantage of these courses run from 30 per cent. to 85 per cent. in the different countries. In one of the countries, the United States, though the longer courses (one year) offered by the universities and colleges are considered almost an essential for leadership, many nurses are to be found who cannot afford a year of post-graduate study. For those who cannot, summer courses, home study courses, so-called institutes, and other opportunities of a like nature are available, which enable a nurse to continue her special education while holding a position. Refresher courses are also offered in a number of the countries and occasionally these are made compulsory. The length of the post-graduate courses varies from two months to ten months or a year. The majority seem to cover a six months' period.

Though teaching methods differ, the courses as a rule combine theoretical and practical work, the latter being supervised for the most part by the nurses belonging to the staff of the agency offering the field training. In some instances special supervisors are provided for the student group. The cost of the courses naturally differs and is impossible to compute by a common denominator since the cost of living is so varied in different parts of the world. In some countries tuition is free and the nurse pays only for living expenses. A few scholarships are available in every country.

(To be concluded.)

THE TREATMENT OF CATARACT BY INOCULATION.

If the discovery of Dr. Felix Lavagna, chief surgeon of the Monaco Hospital, that cataract can be cured by inoculation proves successful in practice, many thousands of sufferers will have cause for gratitude to this French scientist.

Dr. Lavagna, says the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, states that "cataract is a microbial disease and as such can be treated by a serum. It has for a long time been thought that the retina of the eye was clouded by formations of crystals which had a purely chemical action.

"Dr. Lavagna claims to have proved that microbes are the source of the trouble. Through experiments with guinea pigs he has shown, he says, that he can produce cataract by injections of virus, and that by subsequent injections of serum obtained from the same virus, can cure it.

"He holds that the efficiency of the serum has been shown by the fact that 80 per cent. of the guinea pigs inoculated with the virus alone contracted the disease, whereas of those which had been given the anti-toxin 65 per cent. showed complete immunity."

Reports as to the results of the treatment of human beings with the anti-toxin for cataract will be awaited with interest.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The half-yearly meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held at 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Tuesday, April 24th, 1934, at 4.30 p.m. The President entertained the members present to tea at 4 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., *Vice-Presidents*, Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., Miss R. E. Darbyshire, R.R.C., Miss G. M. Littleboy, A.R.R.C., Miss Isabel Macdonald, *Directors*, Miss S. A. Villiers, J.P., Hon. Secretary, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., President, Mental Hospital Matrons' Association, Miss R. A. Cox-Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C., President, College of Nursing, Miss B. Salton, President, the Nurses' League, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Miss M. F. Hughes, President, Leicester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League, Miss L. Clark, M.B.E., R.R.C., President, County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association, Miss H. Dey, R.R.C., President, League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses, Miss A. Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C., President, The Nightingale Fellowship.

THE MINUTES.

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on October 18th, 1933, were read by Miss Villiers and confirmed.

The President then invited those present to stand whilst she notified the deaths of:—

1. King Albert I. of the Belgians.
2. Viscount Novar of Raifh and Novar, P.C., K.T., G.C.M.G.
3. Miss Helen Lucy Pearse, S.R.N., Director National Council of Nurses of Great Britain.

On rising the President said she wished to notify with homage the loss of benefactors to the Nursing Profession.

KING ALBERT I. OF THE BELGIANS.

The tragic death of King Albert I. of the Belgians on February 17th last, was the world's loss of a noble man, a great King and a great example, of a Royal Ruler, who had specially honoured their International and National Councils of Nurses at their Congress in Brussels.

Their International President, Miss Lloyd-Still had upon behalf of the Nurses of the World, conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved Queen Elisabeth, who had been deeply moved by the participation of the Nurses in the overwhelming sorrow which had befallen the Royal Family and Belgian people, and desired that her warmest thanks should be conveyed to them. As President, Mrs. Fenwick reported that she had upon the part of the National Council expressed the profound grief and sympathy of its members to Queen Elisabeth, and had received a message of warmest thanks.

She had also sent loving sympathy to Mlle. Hellemans, President of the National Federation of Belgian Nurses, for which she expressed thanks.

A visit of ceremony had been paid to the Belgian Embassy in London, for which the Belgian Ambassador, Baron de Cartier de Marchienne, had expressed himself as profoundly touched.

Our First Vice-President, Miss Cochrane, had attended the Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey. Miss Bushby was present at the Service at St. Paul's, and the President had been present at the Requiem Mass at Westminster Cathedral on February 28th, so that all possible homage had been paid to the memory of this most heroic Sovereign and noble man.

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