

Progress.

Answers to the question as to whether public health nursing is progressing satisfactorily in the various countries are most interesting. Eighteen countries reply that on the whole progress is satisfactory, though a few somewhat qualify this statement as follows: Three, Estonia, the Irish Free State and Yugoslavia speak of development as being slow. South Africa and Korea feel that new development is being hindered by lack of funds. Belgium feels that there is too much specialisation for the best development. Two countries speak doubtfully of their progress, Czechoslovakia, where, however, it is felt that a good effort is being made, and Iceland, where there are not enough nurses for the scattered population. Austria speaks definitely of retardation owing to financial conditions, a situation probably shared by many other countries. In India, than which there is no more difficult field, progress is not on the whole considered satisfactory. Old difficulties against which nurses have been struggling for years have not yet been overcome. There are too few really good candidates to fill the public health nursing ranks, and the present financial condition of the country prevents expansion and otherwise holds back progress. It is, I think, however, rather remarkable that in these hard times so large a majority of the countries feel that a satisfactory progress is being made.

General Picture.

What picture of public health nursing as a whole do we get from all this detail? One cannot, I think, study the mass of information collected without gaining certain very definite impressions.

Public health nursing is seen as a strong and vigorous young movement manifesting itself all over the world according to certain fairly well developed principles.

The care of the sick and health teaching form the basis on which the work is built. An excellent type of young womanhood has been and is being recruited as public health nurses and the type shows evidences of steady improvement.

The special education of these young women is receiving the interested support of the governments of the various countries as well as the universities and colleges, the hospital training schools, the Red Cross and the national nursing bodies. Their educational aspirations are also being furthered by the interest of the agencies which employ them. They are in many countries satisfactorily remunerated financially, and in others, though the depression has affected salaries, a return to former conditions is hoped for later.

The same may be said of opportunities for employment and advancement.

All stages of growth and development are to be found within the movement. Where public health nursing has been longest and most favourably established it has attained a strong growth, reaching out year by year to meet new needs and steadily entrenching itself more firmly as a national institution.

In countries where the movement is younger, it is going through the difficulties inherent to that stage of development. The work is not understood, and progress is only to be attained at the expense of great and often discouraging effort.

In a few countries there is cause for anxiety because so few trained nurses are being turned out that there is danger that public health nursing will fall into the hands of a group incapable of appreciating the possibilities or fulfilling its responsibilities.

On the whole, however, a vigorous note of hope has been struck by the vast majority of the countries, which feel that in spite of all drawbacks public health nursing is progressing steadily toward a greater and wider usefulness.

MARY S. GARDNER.

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.**THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.**

On June 16th the Annual Meeting of the Infectious Hospitals Matrons' Association will be held at the City Hospital and Sanatorium, Long Leys Road, Lincoln, at 3 p.m.

Arrangements have been made for a visit to the Cathedral, after the Meeting.

Trains: dep. King's Cross, 10.10 a.m., arr. Lincoln 2.8 p.m.; dep. Lincoln 6.20 p.m., arr. King's Cross 9.30 p.m.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, SHEFFIELD.

The Annual Re-union of Nurses will be held on June 14th, 1934, at 3.30 p.m.

A business meeting of the League of Trained Nurses will be held at 2.15 p.m.

Hospitality is offered to those coming from a distance. Kindly inform the Matron before June 11th, 1934.

LEAGUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES.

A General Meeting of the above League will be held in the Lecture Room, the Nurses' Home, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1, on Saturday, July 7th, at 3 p.m. The Agenda provides for the usual business.

Under item 8, the President, Miss H. Dey, R.R.C., will give a short account of changes affecting the Nursing Staff in the Hospital during her term of office. After the business, the meeting will resolve into a Social Gathering in the Grand Hall.

LEAGUE OF FEVER NURSES.

Colindale Hospital,
Hendon.

DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,

On behalf of the League of Fever Nurses, may I thank you very much indeed for the very charming gift of the "Chairman's Hammer." We shall treasure it highly, both for its historical value and your very kind thought. I am sure it will prove most helpful at our future meetings.

You will be interested to know that our membership is mounting, and I hope the League will become a strong Association. Again, with very many thanks for your token of good wishes, from

Yours very sincerely,

WINIFRED P. SOLOMON
(President),

League of Fever Nurses.

THE LEEDS GENERAL INFIRMARY NURSES' LEAGUE.

We regret that by a printer's error Miss A. E. Billington, nominated as a delegate by the Leeds General Infirmary Nurses' League on the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, was given a wrong address in our last issue. Miss Billington is Matron of the Radium Institute, 16, Riding House Street, Portland Place, London, W.1.

CROYDON GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Miss C. L. Keys-Wells, the matron of the General Hospital, Croydon, will be pleased to hear from any "old" members of the Nursing Staff who would like to be invited to the opening of the Hospital Extension by H.R.H. The Duchess of York, on July 27th, 1934.

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