

before 9.45 a.m. so as to have it ready and quiet for the doctor's rounds, and for carrying out treatment ordered. It was not, she said, clear whether the ward orderlies were to undertake all these duties in the ward, or whether they were to share them with the probationers. Were they in addition to, or in substitution for, probationers?

No. 4, Dr. Barrie Lambert pointed out, set out definite duties in the chronic and convalescent wards. The duties were set out fully with the exception of the one duty to which objections had been raised, i.e., *the giving of bedpans*. Why, asked Dr. Lambert, this one important omission? Was it because the Socialist Party dare not let the public know the type of treatment they proposed to give the patients in the hospitals?

No. 5 stated that the ward orderly should give assistance to the senior nursing staff if required, in the blanket bathing, dressing, moving, or making the beds of patients for whom two persons were required simultaneously to assist. If that was not nursing, what was it? The senior staff made the beds of patients most ill. The mere fact of two being necessary showed this. Why, asked Dr. Lambert, should the patients be left to untrained persons? Great knack was required in lifting. From the nursing standpoint the employment of orderlies in these nursing duties would have a detrimental effect on the training of probationers. Instruction in these duties, entailing lifting helpless patients; the care of their backs and the changing of sheets, formed a most valuable part of practical training.

The reason advanced by the advocates for this recommendation was that it was impossible to train probationers properly under the present system of ward organisation. Against this she pointed out that last year 80 per cent. of the Council's nurses passed the State Examination against 67.6 per cent. for the whole country. This year the percentage was 87.4 against 77.2. These results were a sufficient vindication, and were obtained entirely under the system of staffing which had been in force.

The Report went on to say "Except in such circumstances as are outlined in No. 5 above, women orderlies do not attend *ordinarily* on any patients who are ill. That opened the door to their carrying out every duty of a first-year probationer which, of course, they would be entitled to do as they were in "substitution for probationers."

Reasons for Moving Amendment.

In moving the Amendment printed on page 208 which was seconded by Mr. Allpass, Dr. Barrie Lambert summed up as follows:—

1. The proposals if carried out would be detrimental to the proper nursing of the patients. On transfer, all sorts of undesirable nursing practices were found, even nursing done by inmates; the untrained were now practically eliminated from the acute hospitals, now they were to come back in large numbers.

2. The proposals would be detrimental to the training of probationers who would lose valuable bedside teaching; the recruiting of probationers would be adversely affected.

3. The proposals would detract from the prestige of the Council's hospitals.

Amendment Lost.

The amendment was lost by 72 votes to 52. Apparently the voting was on party lines and it was defeated by a Socialist majority.

General Nursing Council Ignored.

A further amendment on recommendation 1A, moved by Sir Oscar Warburg and seconded by Dr. Barrie Lambert, was, in effect, an addition to the original amendment, namely—"That the following be added: 'but that before agreeing to the employment of women orderlies the Committee do ascertain, and report, the views of the General Nursing

Council on such a proposition.'" This was also lost, and the scheme will come into force on October 1st.

Women Orderlies.

In seconding Sir Oscar Warburg's amendment, Dr. Barrie Lambert read a telegram she had received from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the British College of Nurses, strongly supporting her point of view concerning the inauguration of orderlies to whom nursing duties are to be allotted, in the London County Council hospitals.

Both Registered Nurses, and the patients in the London County Council hospitals, are indebted to Dr. Barrie Lambert for putting so clearly the case for the opposition to the creation and employment of women orderlies in L.C.C. hospitals, and though, for the time being, her motion was defeated by a Socialist majority, yet the debate upon it will have done much good in crystallising the opposition to the proposal.

Degradation of Nursing Standards.

Fundamentally the question is one of degradation of nursing standards in London County Council hospitals, the result of which will be that after a short term of service many of these women orderlies having acquired a smattering of nursing knowledge will doubtless drift out into the private nursing world through unprofessional agencies, dangerously ill equipped as they will be for the service of the sick, and will be supplied to the public, and institutions, as "Nurses," in substitution for the registered and responsible nurse. The London County Council is assuming a heavy responsibility in creating this hybrid worker, who inevitably later on will be a danger to the public.

The Lancet's Sound Opinion.

The *Lancet* in its issue of August 3rd discussing the statement that "women orderlies will not attend ordinarily to any patients who are ill," makes the following comment:

"It seems to us that it may be unwise to allow any loophole such as would be implied by the word 'ordinarily' in section 5 of the duties set out above, and that in any circumstances such duties as blanket-bathing, moving, or bed-making for the patient should be confined entirely to the nursing staff in approved training schools. The cleaning of equipment in sanitary annexes (*e.g.*, bed pans) should also in our view be among the duties of the nursing staff which should not be delegated. Even if the probationer has ample material on which to practise nursing procedures, there is a psychological disadvantage in allowing her, at an impressionable period of her training, to regard personal service to the patient as anything but work strictly within the purview of a nurse."

WELCOME NEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Nurses in South Africa are rejoicing that the Earl of Clarendon, Governor-General, has agreed to accept a further term of office in that country. The *South African Record* says:

"Gifted with qualities of statesmanship that owe much to heredity, His Excellency's unflinching tact, discretion and sound judgment have been greatly aided by his warmth of heart and ability to identify himself with the interests of each of the varied races which make up the growing nation known as South Africans.

"Her Excellency Lady Clarendon, patroness of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, throughout her sojourn in this country has taken the deepest possible interest in all that affects nursing and the nursing profession. Her work in focussing public attention on nursing service in rural areas and in providing nursing education for coloured and native races has done much to stimulate the tardy provision now being made by the Government to meet those needs. We rejoice that the extension of their terms of office will enable her to see some of the fruit of her labours."

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