

## NURSES' DAY AT FULHAM HOSPITAL.

The distribution of prizes to the Nurses at Fulham Hospital on Wednesday, September 18th, was the occasion of a very cheery gathering of nurses past and present, together with a number of invited guests. The Chairman, Mrs. Maya H. Latham, presided, and the prizes and certificates were presented by John Wilmot, Esq., M.P. for East Fulham. Nurse J. Martin carried off the certificate of distinction.

The Sister Tutor, amid cheers, received a special "prize" and the Matron, Miss M. G. Allbutt, F.B.C.N., a gift of a lovely sheaf of roses presented by the nurses.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Cecil D. Coyle, said that the more interest shown in the Hospital, the more criticism, and pointed out that the nursing staff were largely responsible for the prestige of the institution, as they came more closely than other members of the staff in contact with the patients and their friends. If the nurses were not up to the mark, the hospital earned a bad name and *vice versa*. He said they must not be content with a high standard, but must aim at a still higher one.

Mr. John Wilmot said he wished to pay a tribute to London's finest and most important service. He thought there was no finer person than a good nurse could be. He said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had set aside this year three-quarters of a million for hospital improvement, increase of nursing staff and extension equipment. It was a vast sum, and he hoped Fulham would get its share. He concluded with a tribute to Miss Allbutt, speaking of her as your beloved Matron who holds a very special position in this Hospital.

Miss Allbutt, wearing the beautiful robes of the British College of Nurses, expressed her thanks.

### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES.

Mr. John Wilmot then presented certificates awarded to nurses who have completed the period of training and passed the Central Final Examination of the Council:—

J. Martin (*Distinction*), G. Asquith, F. Brown, P. Brown, E. Field, A. Hevey, B. Hicks, D. Hicks, E. Johnston, G. Kenyon, M. Lowe, M. McQuaid, M. Middleton, N. Rumbold, J. Stack, W. Steer, B. Tucker, E. Taylor, F. Whatmore, M. Williams.

### PRIZES.

Medical Superintendent's prizes for senior nurses:—W. Steer, J. Martin.

Matron's prizes for second-year nurses:—B. Davies, E. Macnamara.

Sister-Tutor's prizes for first-year nurses:—P. Morse, M. Bracken.

Mr. Wilmot and the Chairman were warmly thanked for their presence and encouraging words.

After the ceremony, a bountiful tea was provided in the nurses' spacious sitting-room, where the nursing staff in the interval of ministering to the visitors (no easy task where so many good things were provided), found time to knit up the threads of friendship with former colleagues.

One of these was heard to say that she had come from Cardiff for the occasion, as the days she spent in Fulham Hospital were the happiest of her life. The Matron is to be congratulated on the success of her nurses in the State Examination (only one failure), on the happy atmosphere among her staff, and her "sausage rolls."

A Reunion Dinner of the 3rd Southern General Hospital of the Territorial Army Nursing Service will be held in London on November 9th. Retired members who have received no communication and wish to attend are asked to write to the Matron of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

### THE WORK OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, when addressing a meeting of members of the Kent County Council at Maidstone recently, spoke most sympathetically of the work of local authorities, saying that he regarded local authorities as partners with the Ministry of Health in the great work of public health administration. He did not think that at any time there had been closer and more satisfactory association between them, and he would do all he could to strengthen it still further.

In a world of many dictatorships, local authorities in this country were a real bulwark of democratic institutions. There was here also an important and extensive field for public service by men and women in all walks of life, for this work touched the life of our people at practically every point. The total annual expenditure of local authorities had reached over £500,000,000. It was a considerable responsibility, but, carefully and sympathetically administered, it was a valuable long-term investment for the nation.

Speaking of the country's water supply, Sir Kingsley Wood said that, as far as the country as a whole was concerned, there was no lack of water. The urban areas, with few exceptions, had been able to deal with times of drought, not only with little inconvenience, but with considerable success.

Some of the rural areas had a more difficult task. With the stimulus of the Government grant, however, a real attack had been made for the first time on the rural water problem, but he hoped that water undertakers would continue to examine their position carefully in the light of past experience and their future requirements. While within a few years the population of the country was likely to become stationary, with the higher standards for houses and especially the provision of hot-water systems, an increased consumption per head of the population would doubtless occur.

The legislation dealing with water supplies generally badly needed overhauling and bringing up to date. There were, of course, many interests concerned, some of which were wider than those of the Ministry of Health, and certain aspects were by no means non-controversial. There was also the difficult question of Parliamentary time. He was glad, however, that a strong Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament was considering these matters, and he hoped that their Report would be available some time this year. It would be of considerable value as far as Parliament was concerned.

It is inspiring to learn that while there is still much to be done in health and housing, in many vital directions Britain, in the opinion of the Minister of Health, is leading the world.

### OVERCROWDING IN LONDON.

The new Act of Parliament relating to overcrowded property in London imposes upon all borough councils the duty of carrying out the survey necessary to ascertain the number of dwellings overcrowded on the basis of the new standard, and in order to secure uniformity throughout the county the necessary forms have been prepared by the London County Council. It is suggested that the first survey should begin not later than the beginning of November, and should not exceed six weeks to complete. A second and more detailed inspection of doubtful cases will then be undertaken.

The actual physical task of making the survey and measuring up rooms in doubtful cases will make it essential for extra staff to be employed. It is, however, generally agreed by students of housing that mistakes involving heavy waste of public money have been made in the past owing to lack of reliable statistical information. As stated

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