

To which the following reply has been received from the Editor:—

“TIME AND TIDE.”

32, Bloomsbury Street,
London, W.C.1.
January 4th, 1935.

The Secretary,
The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, W.1.

DEAR MADAM,—I am writing on behalf of Lady Rhondda to thank you for your letter of the 1st. Lady Rhondda regrets to say that she cannot consider any further articles on the “Nursing Profession,” but she is always ready to read letters on this subject, with a view to publication in our correspondence columns.

Yours faithfully,

W. E. COLE,
Editorial Secretary.

It was agreed to send a reply expressing the Council's disappointment that although space could be found in *Time and Tide* for the discussion of the affairs of professional nurses by unprofessional persons, space could not be given for the expression of expert nursing opinion, especially as these unprofessional contributors are apparently exceedingly ignorant of the matters they venture to discuss which are calculated to mislead the public.

Thanks for congratulations on their election to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, received from (a) Miss Helen Dey, R.R.C., Matron, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, as Vice President, and (b) Miss Norah Farrant, F.B.C.N., Inspector of County Nursing Associations, as Director.

Letters of thanks for Christmas Grants given from Miss Macdonald's Calendar Fund have been received from many recipients, expressing warmest appreciation for the timely gifts and kind greetings.

The President stated that she felt that these most grateful communications of thanks called again for an expression of gratitude on behalf of the Council to Miss Macdonald for her untiring work for her fellow nurses.

THE DOMICILIARY NURSING SERVICES BILL.

The President pointed out that arising out of the minutes was the question of the Domiciliary Nursing Services Bill, which was much more important than might be realised, as in the future the Minister of Health might introduce a similar measure to that put forward by Sir Gerald Hurst, and now withdrawn. She had therefore invited Miss Norah Farrant, Inspector of Queen's Nurses, to explain the present position of the proposed measure.

Miss Norah Farrant then attended the Council Meeting and was welcomed by the Chairman. Miss Farrant read an exhaustive statement on the subject of which the following is a brief report:—

District Nursing.

Training in Social Service Nursing Essential.

Miss Farrant said the nursing of the sick in their own homes has been an organised national service since the Queen's Institute of District Nursing was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1889 under the name of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses.

At the end of the year 1933 the number of Queen's Nurses working in England and Wales was 2,439. In addition to this, other District Nurses and some 3,000 Village Midwives were at that date employed under the supervision of the County Nursing Associations.

The upkeep of the service as far as general nursing is concerned, except for grants available for nursing necessitous cases under the Public Assistance Committees, has been on voluntary lines.

Local committees have in recent years organised contributory schemes in their areas by which free nursing is made available for a household subscription from 1d. a week.

One of the basic principles of the Queen's Institute is, that the special training which is taken by all Queen's Nurses is essential for all nurses undertaking this home nursing service under affiliated district nursing associations.

A knowledge of social science is essential, and sympathetic educational work, as well as skilled nursing, are required from the District Nurse.

The demand for the most highly trained nurses is definitely increasing, and the conditions under which they carry out their work are steadily improving. This has all come about under the care and direction of Voluntary Committees. A Bill known as “The Domiciliary Nursing Services Bill” was introduced into the House of Commons in July. This Bill gave Local Authorities power to provide and pay nurses for domiciliary nursing. A State service without proper safeguards protecting the present standard of training could not be acceptable to existing Voluntary Nursing Associations, and opposition to the introduction of such important legislation otherwise than by government has prevented any measure being carried through during the present session.

The extension of powers to Local Authorities to make grants in aid of district nursing would enable responsible County Nursing Association Committees and other District Nursing Associations to extend and improve their services while maintaining the present high standard of training and administration.

District Nursing has been proved to be an essential unit in the Public Health and Hospital services of this country, and government legislation to assist in its further development would be both economic and humanitarian and should receive support from all organisations of State Registered nurses.

The Chairman invited discussion and it was unanimously agreed that additional training in social service was necessary for all nurses undertaking district nursing, and that should the Government in the future introduce a Domiciliary Nursing Services Bill, it should be urged to include special facilities for training in the various branches of nursing such as are now compulsory for Queen's Nurses.

The President thanked Miss Farrant for the detailed facts she had placed before the Council, and said the Council would do all in its power to support the principle of the points she had raised to maintain the Professional Status of the Registered Nurse: (1) The Special Training of District Nurses, and (2) The Professional Status of Registered Nurses.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SISTER DORA'S BIRTHDAY.

Letters from (a) Mr. S. E. Edge, Deputy Mayor of Walsall, and from Mr. P. H. Thomas, the Mayor's Secretary, in which the latter wrote:

“You will again be happy to know that Walsall people will be paying homage to the memory of Sister Dora on Wednesday next, the 16th instant (her Birthday). Enclosed is a circular with regard to the ceremony.

“The Ex-Mayoress, in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor (Councillor Mrs. Cresswell), will place a garland of flowers on the statue, and representatives of the nursing profession and others will place floral tributes on it. We are having a wreath of laurels and some flowers placed on Sister Dora's grave in Queen Street Cemetery, Walsall, and Mr. Williamson's model for the statue, which is just outside the Mayor's Parlour here, will be suitably decorated.

“The labours of Sister Dora at the Cottage Hospital (now the Walsall General Hospital) continue to bear fruit, and the modest building in which she worked is now a very

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