

order to pay that part of the salaries of the additional midwives appointed by them which relates to other than midwifery and maternity nursing work. It may be necessary, therefore, for a County Council to consider the question of a further exercise of the power conferred upon them by Section 67 of the Poor Law Act, 1930, to subscribe, with the consent of the Minister, towards the funds of Nursing Associations."

Put plainly, the proposition of the Ministry, therefore, is that County Councils, through voluntary Nursing Associations, shall (1) In order to avoid "undue expenditure," arrange if possible to cover the rural parts of the counties with a network of so-called "Nursing Associations" to provide the midwives to carry out the provisions of the new Midwives Act; (2) as these midwives will normally devote a substantial part of their time to district nursing, that powers possessed by Local Authorities shall be invoked to contribute to the funds of the Nursing Associations, which may thus, while maintaining inadequate standards of nursing, and paying inadequate salaries, call upon public authorities to supply the funds to maintain and extend this undesirable system.

It should be appreciated that the system will act unfairly in regard to the sick poor in rural districts, who may have subsidised inadequacy forced upon them, and upon State Registered Nurses, who if desirous of serving the rural poor will find the economic position impossible, as they will have to compete with unregistered nurses, any deficiency in whose salaries will be augmented compulsorily by the taxpayers, including Registered Nurses.

The Act exempts State Registered Nurses on the General Part of the Register from the Clause which makes it penal for women who are not State Certified Midwives to receive remuneration for attending as a nurse on a woman in childbirth.

A Maternity Services (Scotland) Bill.

A Maternity Services (Scotland) Bill on similar lines to the Act for England and Wales, was presented on July 27th in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

The National Council of Women.

Unfortunately our National Council was not represented at the Annual Conference of the N.C.W. at Southport, as those invited could not attend, so we have no report.

"The Status of Women" Memorandum, as submitted to His Majesty's Government by the Special Committee of Women's Organisations convened by the National Council of Women of Great Britain, is on the table for the inspection of anyone desirous of reading it.

The Murder of Jewish Nurses at Jaffa.

In August last the civilised world was shocked by the murder, at Jaffa, of two Jewish nurses, and the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain received

the following cable from the Jewish Nurses' Association at Jerusalem:—

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK, NATIONAL COUNCIL NURSES, GREAT BRITAIN, 39, PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON—

TWO JEWISH NURSES REPORTING DUTY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL JAFFA WHERE THEY WERE PURSUING HUMANITARIAN WORK WITHOUT REGARD RACE OR CREED WERE CRUELLY SHOT DEAD THRESHOLD HOSPITAL BY ARAB MURDERERS THIS DASTARDLY ACT OF DIRECT AND PREMEDITATED ATTACK UPON SISTERS OF MERCY IS UNPARALLELED IN NURSING HISTORY WE JEWISH NURSES PALESTINE OVERWHELMED WITH GRIEF AND HORROR TURN TO NATIONAL COUNCIL NURSES GREAT BRITAIN URGE THEM EXPRESS PROTEST AGAINST THIS OUTRAGE TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT—

PALESTINE JEWISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A copy of this cable, conveying the request of the Jewish Nurses' Association to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was sent to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, petitioning him to take such steps as commend themselves to him, in the name of the British Government, to prevent the recurrence of so wanton and horrible a tragedy.

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A sympathetic reply was received from the Colonial Office to which the letter had been transmitted from the Foreign Office, sent by direction of Mr. Ormsby Gore, Secretary of State for the Colonies, enclosing a copy of the official communiqué issued by the High Commissioner for Palestine, Sir Arthur Wauchope, on August 18th. Mr. Ormsby Gore desired to associate himself with the sympathy expressed by the High Commissioner in his communiqué.

The letter was suitably acknowledged.

The following letter was sent by the President of the National Council of Nurses

to the President of the Jewish Nurses' Association:—

Letter from the President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain to the President, Jewish Nurses' Association.

September 19th, 1936.

DEAR MADAM,—In the name of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain I must first express to you and to the Jewish Nurses' Association our deep sympathy in the sorrow which has overwhelmed it by the deaths of two Jewish nurses in so cruel and terrible a manner.

I desire to acquaint you that, on receiving your cable, I took immediate steps to bring it to the notice of the Government, and now send you a copy of the letter I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom it was forwarded, from which you will realise how sympathetically it was received by him, and his desire to support the High Commissioner in Palestine in his efforts to prevent the occurrence of similar crimes.



Miss G. LE GEYT, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
Superintendent Health Visitor, Public Health Department,
Bethnal Green. Elected Director of the National Council
of Nurses of Great Britain.

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