

rules, arrangements for annual holidays, questions of physical welfare, dismissal, promotion, discipline or conduct, methods and organisation of work, recreational facilities, leave passes, ratio of patients per nurse on duty by night and day, adequate relief staff, etc.

10. *Preliminary Training Schools*.—Compulsory training for all probationer nurses before undertaking ward duty.

11. *Higher Training*.—Facilities to be given to suitable nurses for free training in midwifery, massage, dietetics, health visiting, sister tutoring, etc.

We print below, somewhat abridged, the report on this matter of the special correspondent of the *Times*.

For ten years, Mr. Gibson (who put forward the Charter) said, there had been a chronic scarcity of recruits for the nursing profession. None of the suggested remedies had worked and the scarcity had now become so serious that, in fact, the system was on the verge of breakdown. In the view of the trade unions interested the reason was that nurses had no effective voice in the control and management of their own profession and no say at all as to what their conditions of labour ought to be. Recruits, as a rule, found themselves treated as extremely low-paid charwomen. The committee set up by the General Council had been considering the possibility of improving organisation among the nurses.

The reason why the profession was at so low an ebb was that tremendous influences were brought to bear on the nurses. They were taught to believe they had a status—and some of them believed that a close-up of a duchess was sufficient reward for all the demerits of the profession. Sacrifice sounded a very good thing, but the sacrifices in the nursing profession were always expected of the nurses. A pamphlet entitled "Off Duty" had now been published by the T.U.C. as part of a campaign to persuade the nurses that they could improve their service—not only in the material sense of their own conditions but by making it an efficient section of the social services—only through trade union organisation.

Mr. J. W. Sunderland (Great Harwood Weavers) spoke of difficulties caused by the gap between the school-leaving age and the age of entry of probationers to the general hospitals.

Mr. B. Smith (Distributive Workers) said that instead of allowing six separate unions to compete for the nurses' adherence, the committee should consider granting a monopoly to one union, or, if necessary, setting up a separate professional organisation or trade union for nurses.

The Section of the Annual Report embodying the Charter for the Nursing Profession was unanimously adopted.

THE PASSING BELL.

Miss M. O. McCreery.

We regret to record the death of Miss M. O. McCreery, retired Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S., at Newpark, Kilkenny.

Trained at Nottingham General Hospital, Miss McCreery was a member of the Army Nursing Service Reserve from 1900 until 1904, when she was appointed Staff Nurse, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She was promoted Sister in 1906 and served during the Great War in France and in Ireland as A/Matron from 1915 to 1920, and in recognition of her valuable services was awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1917. She retired from the Service owing to ill-health in 1923.

Miss McCreery had an unusually distinguished career. She served in the South African War from 1900 to 1902 and was mentioned twice in despatches for courage and devotion to duty in the field. In 1908 while serving in Malta, she was one of the nurses who volunteered to go to Messina after the terrible earthquake there, and for her nursing services received the thanks of the Italian Government and the decoration of the Royal Cross.

Miss C. M. Gambradella.

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on August 23rd of Miss C. M. Gambradella, R.R.C., retired Sister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Trained in the Royal Infirmary, Derby, Miss Gambradella was appointed Staff Nurse, Q.A.I.M.N.S. in 1913, and promoted to Sister in 1918.

During the War she served with great distinction as Acting Matron in Hospital Ships, and in Egypt, and was awarded the decoration of the Royal Red Cross in 1916.

Miss Gambradella was a most attractive personality and an outstanding member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; with a high sense of loyalty and duty, she devoted herself heart and soul to the work she loved so much and it was a great sorrow to all her colleagues when she had to give up her active career owing to ill-health in 1931. Our deep sympathy will go out to her relatives who mourn her loss.

Miss M. D. E. Knight, A.R.R.C.

We regret to record the death of Miss M. D. E. Knight, A.R.R.C., late Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S. Reserve, at Tigne, Malta.

Trained at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, Miss Knight, who was a member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve from 1908 to 1923, served with great distinction as a Sister and acting Matron in that Service, at Home, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, and in Malta, from 1914 to 1919, and in recognition of her valuable and devoted services was Mentioned in Despatches and appointed an Associate of the Royal Red Cross.

After giving up her nursing duties, Miss Knight made her home in Malta for the remainder of her life, and her house in Tigne was known as a place of resort for all who needed help or advice. In spite of failing health she maintained the same courageous outlook, and her kindly sympathetic nature endeared her to a wide circle of friends by whom her death will be deeply regretted.

Miss Mary Harry.

We deeply regret to record the death of Miss Mary Harry, a valiant English nurse trained at the Royal Infirmary, Truro, who gave devoted service to the Kentucky Frontier Nursing Service from 1929-1935.

Of Miss Harry's service record it is stated in the *Quarterly Bulletin* that just the plain bare facts read like a page of old romance. In her "crowded hours of glorious life" she proved that the spirit can triumph over even the most shattered body.

In 1916, while aboard a transport off Torquay Harbour, she sustained a fracture of the right lower jaw, and ultimately a portion of the bone was removed. In April, 1917, while attached to the hospital ship *Austeris*, she was engaged in transporting wounded soldiers from the ship to a little seaport outside Scarborough. The wounded had just been taken to a shed, to await a train, when they were bombed by a Zeppelin. Thirty or forty of the wounded were killed, and one doctor and five or six nurses. "Harry" was badly wounded, and it was several hours before she received emergency attention. Then she was removed to the Royal Hospital, Truro, and operated on immediately on arrival. She spent seven weeks in this hospital, during which time she had pleurisy. After a month's convalescence she returned to the naval base at Truro for regular duty until demobilised in 1919.

She joined the Frontier Nursing Service in 1929, during which time she had the last two operations as the result of old wounds. In addition she had a horseback accident in which she fractured her skull. She was also bitten by a copper-head snake. Finally the gallant heart played out, and in 1935 she was retired, but she took a part-time job at the Women's Hospital, Detroit.

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