

national Council of Nurses have been received from the Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) the Hon. the Minister for Health (Sir Earl Page), the Hon. the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Hughes) and the Director-General of Public Health (Dr. Campston)."

Commenting editorially on the Treasurer's Report for 1937, *Saint Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* remarks:—

"In a Report so full of interesting material it is difficult to single out any one particular subject for comment. However, the vicissitudes of the reconstruction scheme and the forthcoming improvements in the conditions of nursing are more than ordinarily important.

"The Nursing problem is tackled boldly and energetically. 'The Nursing Staff—of whom we are so justly proud—are still overworked in spite of many alleviations in working hours during the past few years, and as this state of affairs is not good for institution or individual, the Treasurer and Almoners have decided to reduce still further their hours of duty. The cost of this concession will be approximately £4,000 a year, but it is one which can no longer be avoided. The appointment of additional nurses, which this will involve, makes it still more imperative that the provision of further accommodation for the Nursing Staff must be immediately considered.'

"At the moment the *authorised* number of the Nursing Staff totals 504, though this figure will not be reached till next October.

"In view of the general shortage of nurses it is encouraging to know that there were 1,150 applicants for the Hospital's Rules and Regulations of training during the year. Of these, 166 were interviewed by Matron, and 134 finally accepted."

Our leading hospital training schools are in a privileged position, to train in them naturally gives prestige to their pupils.

It is in the smaller and special hospitals where the shortage of probationers is so keenly felt.

To quote the *Sunday Dispatch*:—

"Nurses rose and applauded surgeon Sir Henry Gauvain, famous medical superintendent of the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripple Hospital at Alton, Hampshire, after a remarkable speech made when he distributed prizes to them at the hospital on June 18th.

"There is a lot of drivel these days which is doing much harm to the nursing profession and driving away many potential candidates for a great vocation," Sir Henry said.

"I hope all this nonsense about how hard nurses have to work will stop. Of course they work hard, but what greater pleasure is there than working hard.

"I have to engage nurses for my private work and the first question they ask me is about time off and holidays. My advice to you nurses when you seek fresh employment is not to ask what you can get, but what you can give. Give, don't grab, and then you will receive."

When rung up at the British College of Nurses for an expression of opinion, we replied:

"The British College of Nurses stands first and foremost for the patient, and considers that members of the Nursing Profession must realise that their work must be vocational and not material, if it is to attain National value.

"Nursing conditions should be humane both for nurses and patients, and the British College of Nurses agrees with Sir Henry Gauvain, that hard work is pleasure, and that it is better to give than to receive."

The Hon. Secretary of "The Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees" has issued a letter to nursing organisations in which the following suggestion is made:—

"The Committee mentioned above are, as you may be aware, overwhelmed with requests to find possibilities of employment in this or any other country for well educated and trained women of Jewish or partly Jewish origin.

"In view of the well-known shortage of really suitable candidates to train as nurses, particularly in the smaller provincial hospitals, I am venturing to write to ask you for your co-operation.

"Could some scheme be devised, to our mutual advantage, whereby carefully chosen Austro-German refugees could be allocated to various recognised smaller training schools to train as nurses, thereby filling a temporary need in British Hospitals."

It seems incredible that our Government is encouraging a flood of German and Austrian Jews into this already congested country, especially as it is well known that a very antagonistic wave of feeling is rising against the swarms of Jews already competing in the labour market in England.

Jewish women in England have shown little interest in nursing the sick, as the majority dislike strenuous domestic work of any kind.

We hope our sick people will be spared from any such experiment.

To quote the *South African Nursing Journal*:—  
"Ever since the final plans for the Hospital took shape it has been the desire of the responsible Committee to build a Nurses' Chapel at Groote Schuur, which would also serve the needs of patients.

"The urgent requirements of the hospital for a long time overshadowed all efforts to finance such a scheme. Through the generosity of two donors the necessary funds are now available and the plans have been put in hand.

"It is to be designed for use as an inter-denominational place of worship, and we hope it will prove a sanctuary and a place of comfort and of inspiration to many."

#### THE INVESTITURE, JULY 5th.

His Majesty conferred decorations as follows:—

##### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

Members:—Miss Hilda Jones, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service; Miss Evelyn Moriarty, late Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India; Miss Emily Blair, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service; and Miss Bessie Forsyth, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

Heartly congratulations on well-deserved honours.

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