

General Superintendent in 1932, it was hoped, the Report says, that she would for many years enjoy the leisure she had so well earned. Her death in the latter part of 1937 was a great grief to all who had been privileged to know her, and the memory of her spirit of selflessness and devotion to duty will be an inspiration to Queen's Nurses all over Great Britain and Ireland.

The resignation from the Council of Dame Maud McCarthy was received with deep regret. She has always been keenly interested in the Institute and its work.

The work in Scotland during the past year has continued to increase and 19 additional Associations have affiliated to the Scottish Branch. Special mention is made of the progress that has taken place in this connection in Orkney, no fewer than five of the islands, where hitherto no nursing service has existed, having formed Associations. Queen's Nurses are now at work on these islands and are already proving of great benefit to the islanders.

It is satisfactory that the salaries of Queen's Nurses in Scotland have been substantially raised, the new scale commencing at £75, rising to £100 per annum, or at £70, rising to £95 per annum for those not undertaking maternity work. In addition to the personal salary, board and uniform allowances are payable with rooms or a furnished house, with an allowance for coal, light, attendance, household laundry and cleaning materials.

The terms of the Maternity Services (Scotland) Act have received much consideration. It is as yet too early to report on the results, but it is expected that Queen's Nurses will be largely employed in this work, especially in the rural areas.

The midwifery and maternity work accomplished by Queen's Nurses in Scotland continued to show satisfactory results. Queen's Nurses attended 14,612 births, approximately one-sixth of the total registered births in Scotland. Of the cases attended by Queen's Nurses, the number of maternal deaths totalled 3.6 per 1,000 births, while in the cases not attended by Queen's Nurses the maternal deaths were 5.9 per 1,000 births.

In Ireland the work of the Institute continues to develop. Two new Associations were opened in Northern Ireland, and four in the Irish Free State, while arrangements were completed for three more to be opened during January, 1938. The Lady Dudley Scheme for establishing and maintaining Queen's Nurses in the poorest parts of Ireland have placed a nurse on Cape Clear Island, an island hitherto without a resident Queen's nurse.

The Gardens of England and Wales during 1937 brought in no less a sum than £13,529 0s. 11d. Surely no more delightful scheme was ever devised than this, which admits the public to share the beauties of some of the finest gardens in the kingdom, and produces so substantial a sum for the Queen's Institute.

So the good work goes on, and Queen's Nurses have cause to be proud of the fine results which day by day are being produced by their skilled and sympathetic work.

We are indebted to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing for the loan of the block of the historic reception held by the late Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House in 1901, which appears in the Annual Report of the Institute, 1937.

E. G. F.

QUEEN MARY'S AFTERNOON PARTY.

Her Majesty Queen Mary gave an Afternoon Party at Marlborough House on June 30th, and received the members of Queen Mary's Committee of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

BATTLE AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

Mr. Walter Elliot opens National Association Conference.

The importance of seeking medical aid at the earliest possible opportunity in cases of tuberculosis was emphasised by the Minister of Health, Mr. Walter Elliot, in the opening address which he delivered at the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis at British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, on June 30th.

"There has been a great advance in our time in habits of living calculated to prevent tuberculosis," said Mr. Elliot. "There is still, however, an unfortunate hesitation in seeking medical advice in good time. I am hopeful that when statistics for the current year are available we shall find that a distinct impression has been made on this problem by the special attention given to tuberculosis in the National Health Campaign of last winter."

Mr. Elliot said that wonderful progress had been made in the treatment of tuberculosis since the days in the middle of the 19th Century when the death-rate from this disease in particular was truly appalling. In the years 1851-60, over 65,000 people died from the disease annually out of a population numbering at that time only about 19 millions.

In 1910-11, when modern methods of prevention in treatment were still in process of development, the average annual death rate had fallen by a half, but was still prodigious. By contrast with this we had the comparative rates for 1936 about one-fifth of the rate of 1851-60, and 28,000 deaths for a population of over 40 millions in 1937.

The toll of tuberculosis was thus still very great—but if we compared this number with the average annual figure of 65,000 for 1851-60 or even with the 56,000 recorded during a period as recent as the decade 1901-10 we could see that real progress had been made. What is more, we could be hopeful for the future.

For instance, in 1911 there were only between 5,000 and 6,000 beds in England and Wales available for tuberculosis cases and to-day we have nearly 31,000 beds available. Nearly 150,000 persons were examined for the first time in the dispensaries in England last year.

Again, good housing undoubtedly helped in the battle against tuberculosis and the legislation passed this year for the provision of new houses for the agricultural worker and for the reconditioning of soundly built old cottages could properly be regarded as a notable contribution in this field.

Mr. Elliot paid tribute to the work of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in disseminating information among the public, in acting as a clearing house for new knowledge on the subject, in the formation of local care committees and in its valuable contribution to the training of tubercular patients for new occupations by the foundation and maintenance of the Burrow Hill Sanatoria Colony in Surrey.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO HOSPITALS ON THE NURSING PROFESSION.

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, which is investigating conditions of service in the nursing profession, is issuing a questionnaire to all hospitals.

The object of this questionnaire is to obtain statistics for the country as a whole on such matters as the hours nurses have to work, the salaries they receive and the length of their annual holidays. This is the most comprehensive survey of the kind ever undertaken in this country; the Committee, which has been receiving evidence from various bodies and associations since last January, has found that their consideration of several important problems has been seriously handicapped by the lack of any general statistics.

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