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EDITORIAL.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Conference convened by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, to be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on November 10th, will afford an interesting opportunity for the discussion of matters and problems of interest to nurses of which we hope many trained nurses will avail themselves.

Morning Session, 10.30 a.m.

GREAT HALL.

The Conference will be opened by the President.

Hospital Administration.

Chair: Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., S.R.N.

Speaker: Miss E. Cockayne, S.R.N.

Opener of Discussion: Miss I. Stewart, R.G.N.

Morning Session, 10.30 a.m.

YORK HALL.

The Nursing Care of the Sick Outside Hospitals.

Chair: Miss Isabel Macdonald, S.R.N.

Speaker: Miss M. G. Milne, S.R.N.

Opener of Discussion: Miss M. Wenden, S.R.N.

Afternoon Session, 2.30 p.m.

GREAT HALL.

Education and Training of the Nurse.

Chair: Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N.

Speakers: Miss G. V. Hillyers, S.R.N.

Miss A. E. Merry, S.R.N.

Opener of Discussion: Miss R. B. Darroch, S.R.N.

Afternoon Session, 2.30 p.m.

YORK HALL.

Nursing of the Chronic Sick, of the Aged and Infirm.

Chair: Miss B. M. Monk, C.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N.

Speaker: Miss M. M. Ingman, S.R.N.

Opener of Discussion: Miss D. S. Coode, S.R.N.

Organised System of Professional Propaganda.

Speaker: Miss M. F. Hughes, D.N., S.R.N.

Opener of Discussion: Miss G. Le Geyt, S.R.N.

Evening Session, 8 p.m.

Address on "Insulin Therapy in Mental Disorders," illustrated by film, by Dr. G. W. B. James, M.C., B.S., D.P.M.

We anticipate a particularly interesting Address from Dr. James, who is Physician for Mental Diseases at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, on Insulin Therapy, which is a recent treatment in mental disorders.

An interesting paper which should arouse lively discussion will be that to be presented by Miss M. F. Hughes, Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, on "Organised System of Professional

Propaganda," a question which the Nursing Profession has not, so far, seriously considered.

There is no doubt that the publicity given in the public press during the last twelve months to the affairs of nurses, their hours and conditions of labour, their feeding, housing and discipline may have had beneficial results, where these have been unsatisfactory. But of recent years the conditions under which nurses live and work have been greatly improved, and still the necessary number of probationers are not forthcoming. When we have on occasions asked Matrons and other trained nurses whose experience would be of value in a discussion which is almost entirely conducted by members of the lay public, we have usually been told that they are not permitted by their Committees to take part in controversy in the public press.

It is therefore important that Registered Nurses who are free to express an opinion should be so organised that when it appears desirable for the professional point of view to be expressed, that one or more of their number may be ready, at short notice, to set out the position clearly and succinctly.

The responsibility of nurses and the need for them to equip themselves as perfectly as possible was recently brought home to them when the imminent shadow of war fell upon our beloved country. We then realised how important was the part nurses would be called upon to play if hostilities broke out, and how indispensable their services would be. Thank God the tragedy of the unspeakable horror of war was averted; none the less it behoves us to prepare ourselves as perfectly as may be for any eventuality, so that if called upon at short notice we may, with the readiness resulting from forethought, take up our appointed place with the maximum effectiveness.

The programme of the Nursing Conference at the Caxton Hall was arranged before the threat of war assailed us, and so special reference to it does not appear in the printed programme, but it will provide an opportunity of which the nurses who meet there will not be slow to avail themselves to discuss, at least informally, how best they can prepare to meet the emergency should war at any time be declared. It is unquestionable that when war was declared in 1914 the preparedness of the Territorial Army Nursing Service with its twenty-three hospitals selected and its medical and nursing staffs ready to be called up at twenty-four hours' notice, saved the situation, by providing skilled care and comfort for thousands of sick and wounded men, for without the forethought of this provision it would have been impossible for hospitals to deal adequately with the demands upon them for beds.

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