

## A STEP FORWARD IN NURSING ORGANISATION.

A scheme has been evolved by the authorities of the West London Hospital which it is hoped may help to lessen the present difficulty in securing an adequate supply of suitable trainees for the nursing profession, inasmuch as it is formulated to bridge the gap between leaving school and entering hospital, which admittedly has been one of the causes for the shortage.

This scheme, which is appended below, explains clearly its advantages, the chief one of which is that the *preliminary tuition will be given in the atmosphere of hospital life*. Further, Matrons will not have the responsibility of young girls living away from their homes, as it will be seen that they are non-resident and presumably under the control of their parents.

Their maximum hours are not to exceed 30 hours per week of five days, thus preparing them gradually for the strain of hospital routine.

It is particularly to be noted that the *Matron is entirely responsible for the selection from candidates*, which removes any suspicion of interference from educational authorities.

At the conclusion of the pre-nursing course, candidates, if so approved, will be in a position, owing to their hospital insight, to pass the preliminary State Examination.

If this scheme is objected to, on the ground of the cost falling on the public, this objection is met by consideration of the cost of a preliminary training school, which is the alternative—the immense cost of building—equipment and provision of domestic staff, and it will be seen at once that the proposed scheme, is not only practical but extremely economical.

The West London Hospital is particularly fortunate in possessing three qualified teachers—the Matron, Miss Courtenay, the Assistant Matron, and Sister Tutor. The lecture rooms of the medical school will be made available when not in use for the nursing students. A point also to be considered is that should in the future the supply of students exceed the requirements of the West London Hospital, they will be at liberty to apply elsewhere for training.

This scheme should be carefully weighed and considered. It seems to have eliminated all the objections that have been raised against the training of nurses being taken out of the hands of the nursing profession. *The sick must be nursed.*

It is understood that the students will be welcomed in the sports and other amenities of the nursing staff. The success of the scheme is still to be proved. We wish it all success.

### PROPOSED SCHEME FOR A NURSING COURSE AT THE WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.

This course of three terms is open to non-resident students *not under 17 years of age*, whose residence is within a radius of 10 miles of the West London Hospital. Candidates must possess either the London Matriculation or Schools Certificate and be specially recommended by a head-mistress.

A Bursarship of £20, which helps to defray expenses of examinations and also a special cookery course, arranged by the London County Council in conjunction with the West London Hospital may be offered in certain cases, each award to be judged on its own merits. This grant will be paid in three instalments, one at the beginning of each term. Each student will be required to provide an overall suitable for practical work.

The year commences each September. Students attend five days a week, the maximum hours of lectures and study not exceeding 30 hours per week, dinner and tea supplied daily and lectures are given in the morning and practical instruction in the afternoon.

### Curriculum.

LECTURES.—By Medical men and qualified Hospital Sisters.  
SUBJECTS.—Hygiene.

Anatomy and Physiology.

Invalid Cookery and Chemistry of Foodstuffs.

First aid.

Nursing.

History of Nursing.

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|---------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| HOURS.—Lectures and Study | ... | ... | 9.30 to 12.30 p.m. |
| Dinner                    | ... | ... | 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. |
| Practical instruction     | ... | ... | 1.30 to 4 p.m.     |

Practical instruction takes the form of demonstrations on Nursing procedures; cookery; visits to clinics, a welfare centre and the Almoner's department and excursions connected with Hygiene and the History of Nursing.

At the end of the Course all candidates will be subject to an Examination, and if successful in this will be accepted for three years' training at the West London Hospital, which is an approved training school under the General Nursing Council.

### THE PRINCESS ROYAL VISITS HER AIR FORCE SISTERS.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, visited Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Hospital, Halton, on Saturday, October 29th.

Her Royal Highness, who was attended by Miss Sybil Kenyon-Slaney, was received by Air Vice-Marshal P. C. Maltby, D.S.O., A.F.C., Air Officer Commanding No. 24 (Training) Group, Halton. Among the officers who had the honour of being presented to The Princess Royal were: The Director of Medical Services, Air Vice-Marshal A. V. J. Richardson, C.B., O.B.E., K.H.S.; the Officer Commanding the Hospital, Group Captain E. W. Craig; the Matron-in-Chief, Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, Miss E. M. Blair, R.R.C.; and the Matron of the Hospital, Miss J. D. Jackson.

On entering the Hospital, a bouquet tied with Royal Air Force ribbon was presented to Her Royal Highness by Staff Nurse Miss E. Maltman.

The Princess Royal, who is President of the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, then made a tour of the wards, the members of the nursing staff being presented to Her Royal Highness as she entered each ward.

Later, the Princess Royal further honoured the Nursing Service by taking luncheon in the Sisters' Mess, and before leaving expressed her pleasure at having had the opportunity of again meeting members of the Nursing Service.

### GAS-PROOF ROOM FOR M.P.s.

M.P.s and Peers who have returned to the Houses of Parliament have found that many of their rooms have been made gas-proof.

All the ground-floor rooms fronting the Terrace have been made gas-proof as places of refuge in an emergency. These include the famous Harcourt dining-room. Rubber fringes are attached to the doors, so that no gas could filter through.

Would that our Government had shown equal solicitude for the safety of the general public, who are defenceless against aerial attack from one end of the Kingdom to the other.

No sophistry can mitigate this heartless neglect of national duty, and unless the Government takes active and immediate action they may receive a rude awakening.

Among other provisions of a code of ethics discussed at the Conference of the British Pharmaceutical Society, in Edinburgh, recently, a provision approved, subject to confirmation, was that if a dispenser detects an error in a doctor's prescription it is his duty to protect the interests of his customer and also the reputation of the physician, by referring confidentially with him.

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