

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

ANTI-GAS TRAINING FOR WHOLE OF L.C.C.
HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION STAFFS.

General Purposes Committee.—Reporting on the steps which are being taken for the training in anti-gas measures of staff employed in the Council's hospitals, institutions and residential schools—many of which would be used in the event of war as casualty clearing hospitals and base hospitals—the Committee state that they consider it essential that the whole of the staff at these establishments, except purely casual employees, should receive anti-gas training.

Great progress has already been made in this direction, practically all the medical and senior nursing staffs at the hospitals and mental institutions having been trained by Home Office instructors. With the approval of the Home Office these staffs are training the junior nursing staff, and the Committee propose to ask the Home Office to agree to the domestic staff being brought within the scope of this scheme.

Other arrangements will, however, have to be made for the training of the non-professional staff, numbering several thousands, many of whom will be required to perform duties in connection with the cleansing of contaminated casualties, the decontamination of buildings, and the formation of fire squads, etc. The Committee accordingly propose that five officers in the Council's service who have been trained as qualified instructors at the Government Civilian Anti-gas School, Falfield, shall be released from their ordinary duties so that they may undertake the training of this staff. It is expected that the work will be substantially completed within twelve months.

HOSPITAL SERVICE.

The Hospitals and Medical Services Committee recommend further developments during the coming 12 months in the consultant and specialist services provided by the Council. The proposals would involve additional expenditure of over £4,000; the total cost of consultants and specialists during the year, it is estimated, would be about £40,900. The engagement of more dental mechanics to cope with the extra work caused by the expansion of the Council's dental services will also be recommended.

The last six of the Council's public health institutions, which have so far accommodated some able-bodied and infirm persons in addition to the sick, are to be used for sick persons only, and the name "institution" will no longer be applied to them. The appropriation of these institutions will complete the removal of the Council's hospital service—68 separate hospitals—from the scope of the Poor Law, thereby making them available to all Londoners.

TASK OF WOMEN PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Mr. Robert Bernays, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, speaking at the annual dinner of the Women Public Health Officers' Association, emphasised the value of their work.

He congratulated the women health visitors on the fact that 95 per cent. of the babies born in 1936 were visited in their homes. But only 60 per cent. of the mothers attended infant welfare centres. It was vital, he said, to increase this figure. It was the object of the National Health campaign to increase it; the work of the Health Visitors must likewise be directed to that end.

Mr. Bernays laid particular stress on the importance of child life protection, for 18,000 children under nine years of age were boarded out by private individuals and dependent for their protection on the visitors of the local authority.

Many were the children of unmarried mothers. These children needed constant care and wise guidance if they were not to become a liability to the nation.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

West London Hospital, Hammersmith.—Miss C. M. Courtenay, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at Guy's Hospital, London, and has been Assistant Matron and Sister Tutor at the Somerset Hospital, Capetown, S. Africa, and Matron at the Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford. Miss Courtenay holds a Sister Tutor's Diploma.

Baguley Sanatorium, Manchester.—Miss Florence Hand, S.R.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Bradford, where she was later Staff Nurse, and has been Ward Sister and Night Sister at the Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham; Pupil Midwife at the Maternity Hospital, Blackpool; Home and Sister Tutor at the General Hospital, Walsall; Assistant Matron at the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor; and Sister Tutor at the National Temperance Hospital, London, N.W.

Borough Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Hyde.—Miss M. M. Bridgewater, S.R.N., R.F.N., has been appointed Matron. She received her general and midwifery training at the Royal Halifax Infirmary; her fever and tuberculosis training at the Fazackerley Hospital, Liverpool, and took the Housekeeping Course of the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich. Miss Bridgewater has been Assistant Matron at the Clatterbridge Infectious Diseases Hospital, Night Sister at the Chester Infectious Diseases Hospital, Ward Sister at the Croydon Infectious Diseases Hospital, and Ward Sister at the Fazackerley Hospital, Liverpool.

Ulster Hospital for Children and Women (Inc.), Templemore Avenue, Belfast.—Miss Eleanor E. Aicken, R.G.N., has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where she was later Staff Nurse, and in Midwifery at the Royal Maternity Hospital, Glasgow. Miss Aicken has also been Sister and deputy Matron at the War Memorial Hospital, Isle of Arran; Labour Ward Sister in the Maternity Unit, District Hospital, Banbridge; Sister, Ante-natal Wards and Private block, and Assistant Matron and Housekeeping Sister at the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miss Aicken has done Private Nursing Home duty in Belfast, and took the Hospital Housekeeping Course at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, Mon.—Miss Bessie Haining, S.R.N., S.C.M., has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Fever Hospital, Middlesbrough, and at the Royal Infirmary, Blackburn, where she was later Staff Nurse. Miss Haining has also been Ward Sister at the County Hospital, Durham; Ward Sister at the Hospital for Women, Nottingham; Night Sister at the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough; Housekeeping Sister at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester; and holds a Housekeeping Certificate.

ASSISTANT MATRON AND HOME SISTER.

Staincliffe County Hospital, Dewsbury.—Miss Elizabeth Baildon, S.R.N., has been appointed Assistant Matron and Home Sister. She was trained at St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, where she was later Staff Nurse, and has been Staff Nurse at the City Fever Hospital, Seacroft; Ward Sister at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham; Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse in the Health Department, Bradford; and Night Sister at the Harrogate and District General Hospital. Miss Baildon has also been engaged in Private Nursing, and holds the Housekeeping Certificate of the Maternity Hospital, Leeds.

SISTER TUTOR.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, Roman Road, East Ham.—Miss Florence Keegan, S.R.N., has been appointed Sister Tutor. She was trained at the Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne; the Alexandra Homes, Devonport; and the City Hospital, Bradford, where she was later Staff Nurse. Miss Keegan has also been Sister at the South Western Hospital, Stockwell, and Assistant Sister Tutor at St. James's Hospital, Balham.

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