

should be given by younger members of the profession, and if "old girls" would return to their schools their views would be accepted perhaps more readily than those of the Matron.

Mass Meetings for all the schools in one area can sometimes be arranged. A good Chairman is necessary, and girls will often send up a written question when they will not get up and speak.

4. Visits of girls from schools to hospitals are always of interest. Parts of the hospital can be shown that will give the idea of nursing as it really is.

5. A much closer co-operation between Headmistresses and Matrons—talks on matters of interest to both—visits on both sides should prove helpful.

There appears to be a great desire on the part of Headmistresses to be of help to us. They have the material that we want, they must provide the foundation and we should assist by giving all the information we can.

6. Open Days in hospital might be much more widely instituted. The annual prize-giving should be a day when the nurses might all invite their parents and friends; tea should be provided and the Hospital open for visitors. The nurses can be made to feel it is their own day, they will be proud of their Training School, and their friends will tell others what they have seen. Exhibits of nurses' work, such as models and charts, can be shown.

7. Brochures or booklets with plenty of illustrations should be sent to schools and also to intending candidates. It helps to give the impression that there is something of which we are proud. This booklet should be prepared by the Matron and not the Hospital Secretary, and written for the intending nurse and not for the member of committee as such.

Leaflets with brief information about the profession, particularly its prospects, should be prepared and used freely, sent to schools, Technical Institutes, Ranger Companies, etc. Advertisements might also be made in other careers books and papers, such as the *Guide*, the *Guider*, *Women's Employment and Careers* and *Vocational Schools*.

II.—Propaganda in order to keep the public in touch with the profession in the right way.

1. It is absolutely essential that there should be greater publicity regarding the importance of the State Register. As an example of this—a questionnaire prepared recently showed that 38 per cent. of the middle class patients approached did not know whether they were being nursed by Registered Nurses or not. This applied to nearly 2,000 private nurses in patients' own homes.

This publicity can be gained—not by the use of the Press—but by other means as representation on lay organisations; by a wider use of properly worn State uniform.

2. We have perhaps, been rather too exclusive, we may have forgotten that we are human beings and have shown contempt for lay organisations. These may be powerful bodies, able to look at facts from all points and they may be able to clear our somewhat clouded view. These organisations could become of greater assistance to us on broad principles, and we on our part may help them by including the nursing profession in outside interests in which we should take part, and by guiding them as to technicalities and points which are often misrepresented.

3. Nursing bodies should be represented at public dinners, on public platforms, on councils and committees.

When public dinners are arranged by nursing bodies, civic guests and local lights should be invited. This helps to give the profession its proper standing, but of course the dinner must be properly done, the dinner itself good, wines well chosen, suitable speakers invited and the Press properly informed as to guests and the object of the dinner.

4. Mass meetings can be arranged, but they need good stage managing, and the platform should not be afraid of a little heckling—it keeps the audience awake!

In all public work organisation must be good or a bad impression will result, e.g., if a film is used a previous rehearsal is advisable or the function may become "a fiasco with bright interludes."

In fact a greater display of our organising ability might prove useful propaganda. At present we show a great lack of this. There is little organised system at all in the profession; our standards of education, training, uniform, salaries and conditions are absolutely inconsistent, and some of us sigh for a strong national federation of the nursing profession.

5. My last suggestion is that a whole time Propaganda Officer should be appointed, possibly by the Ministry of Health or by a subsidy from all participating bodies. This has already been done by the London County Council. She should have an office with a good address. She should be a State Registered Nurse whose duties should include:

(1) The keeping of records of all Recognised Training Schools, with booklets, etc., so that she may pass the necessary correct information to enquirers, of whom there are many already.

(2) The keeping of Press cuttings and dealing with suitable Press articles.

(3) The organisation of local speakers throughout the country, as the needs in different parts are better dealt with by those in the locality. Records and files of visits paid and results should be kept. Stress results.

(4) To design attractive notices, handbills, posters if any are used.

(5) Arrangements of stalls or exhibits at commercial exhibitions, e.g., present Women's Exhibition at Olympia.

Certainly it would be a whole-time post.

These are only some suggestions I have put forward. There may be better ones from the floor that we shall be glad to hear, but I believe there is a real need for us to face our difficulties, to organise ourselves on a proper footing and to advertise our goods far more than we have done in the past.

Discussion.

The discussion was opened by Miss G. Le Geyt, S.R.N., and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and others approved propaganda as a means of interesting the community in the invaluable service of Nursing.

LEGAL MATTERS.

"Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before."

The *Evening Standard* reports as follows:—

Thirty-six-year-old Mary Melrose, of Monument Road, Woking, said to be critically ill, pleaded guilty through her solicitor, at Brighton recently, to representing herself fraudulently as a State Registered nurse.

Mr. E. G. Oldham, prosecuting, said Melrose answered an advertisement in 1932, and by representing herself as a State Registered nurse was appointed Matron of a Brighton nursing home.

Mr. Thomas W. Tilbrook, defending, said the case was "one of folly rather than of criminal intent." Melrose had received considerable training, although she had not passed the State Examination, and in no case could neglect or incompetence be proved against her.

Melrose was fined 20s. and £2 costs.

Should the Government institute legal status and protection for untrained nurses, they will run little risk in representing themselves as State Registered nurses. We doubt if it will be possible to prove "criminal intent."

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