

woman, and the appeal for the Civil Nursing Reserve launched about a week ago met with an immediate response from all over the country. The offices at 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1, were inundated with applicants. Dame Beryl Oliver, who is in charge of the V.A.D. detachments and is staff officer to the Princess Royal, the Commandant-in-Chief, has been ceaselessly occupied in putting inquirers in touch with their nearest headquarters.

There are about 1,500 detachments and a nucleus of about 30,000 trained recruits. About 50,000 more are needed. They are being enrolled principally for nursing. Every member must have certificates in first-aid and home nursing, for which free lectures are available, and those enrolling in the Civil Nursing Reserve are also expected to take a minimum of 50 hours' instruction in a civil hospital.

Applicants must be British, sound in wind and limb, of reasonable intelligence, and between the ages of 18 and 55. In hospitals they will do the ordinary work of a probationer, and will not be called upon to do the duties of a ward maid.

V.A.D. UNIFORM CHANGE.

A change has been made in the V.A.D. uniform. In order to shorten the time taken in dressing the new V.A.D. will find that she has more workmanlike garments than her predecessors. The dress of grey-blue nurse's cloth is in one piece and goes on over the head: it is then drawn in at the waist, thus doing away with a stiff belt. There are three buttons fastening in front: a short sleeve and a collar of the cloth instead of a stiff white collar. The apron has no broad shoulder bands but little loops that fasten with invisible safety-pins. The cap is a long rectangle of white lawn, and grey stockings and black Oxford shoes complete the outfit.

The Women's Land Army has been enrolling volunteers since the issue of the National Service Handbook. The number of applications runs into many thousands, and some have had to be refused, as they were from women in reserved occupations. About 6,400 have already been enrolled. A large number of applications came from women available only for part-time and a separate register is kept of these.

COURSES OF TRAINING.

The Land Army is not like any of the other emergency services. At present the Government do not propose to train women, but in the event of war courses of training will be provided at approved centres, such as agricultural colleges and approved farms, and already preparations have been made. Committees are being set up in every county who will deal with the placing of women on the farms, and they will be responsible for the supervision of lodgings and welfare.

Lady Denman is the honorary director of the Land Army, and her deputy is Miss Kindersley. Applications for enrolment should be made to the secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Kings Buildings, Smith Square, S.W.1, or to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture for Scotland, 29, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, 2, or to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, Stormont, Belfast.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

A Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Saturday, April 22nd, 1939, at 2.30 p.m.

The President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss A. M. Bushby, Vice-President; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., Miss I. Macdonald, Miss M. M. Ingman, Miss D. G. Tilby, Miss E. Brodie and Miss E. F. Brownsdon, Fellows; and Miss D. M. Dickinson and Miss K. Fogarty, Members.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. Breay and Miss C. E. Nelson.

BUSINESS ARISING.

It was reported that since the last Meeting, the College had been actively engaged in giving wide publicity to the decision of the Council of the British College of Nurses to oppose, at all costs, the degradation of Registered Nurses as proposed in the recommendations of the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, and the following communications have been sent:—

Protest re proposed Recommendations of the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, to establish a Roll of second grade nurses.

As agreed by the Council at its last Meeting held on March 18th, the following letter of Protest was sent to all Members of Parliament:—

REGISTERED NURSES APPEAL FOR JUSTICE.

The British College of Nurses,
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.
April 14th, 1939.

SIR,—At a recent Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses it was agreed that on behalf of its Fellows and Members a letter be sent to all Members of Parliament expressing its unanimous indignation on the suggested degradation of Registered Nurses as embodied in the Recommendations of the Interim Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, that a Roll of second grade nurses shall be recognised by the State and compiled and controlled by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the Governing Body of the Nursing Profession under the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919.

The Council of the British College of Nurses earnestly pleads that you will oppose any amendment of the Nurses' Registration Act which would involve this proposed breach of contract with nurses now on the Register, who by their sense of public duty have financed the work of the General Nursing Council for nineteen years, and attained honourable status in the body politic, and which would be most disastrous to the educational standards of the Nursing Profession and to the safety of the sick.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALICE STEWART BRYSON, Secretary.

Communications of acknowledgment have been received from the Prime Minister, Sir Archibald Sinclair, and many important Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament.

The following letter was sent to the British Medical Association:—

- (a) The Chairman, Sir Kaye Le Fleming, M.D.
- (b) The President, Dr. Colin Lindsay.
- (c) The Secretary.

The British College of Nurses,
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.
April 15th, 1939.

DEAR SIR,—At a recent Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses it was agreed that a letter be sent

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