

NURSING EDUCATION AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

His Grace, the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Sir John Gilmour, accompanied by Her Grace, Lady Gilmour, and their suite, honoured the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on 24th May, by visiting wards in the Medical Hospital, the Surgical Hospital and the Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion. The party then proceeded to a lecture theatre, where the Chairman of the Board of Managers invited His Grace to present the "Affleck" Medal and the prizes, won by nurses during the past year.

Immediately after the presentation, His Grace spoke of the national importance of the Nursing Profession in peace and in war, and that the hospital and nursing services of to-day were appreciated by all sections of the community, although often taken for granted. If war should come—which God forbid—there would be a great need for trained nurses. He had experienced the ministrations of nurses during a period of illness and hoped that he had been a good patient, he had tried to be! He then concluded his address by wishing the prize-winners and all nurses present success and happiness in their work. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh then thanked His Grace. Before leaving the theatre Her Grace spoke to the Medallist and the chief prize-winners. Tea was then served in the Recreation Hall of the Florence Nightingale Nurses' Home.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE TRAINING SCHOOL AND PRIZES AWARDED.

The Training School for Nurses was founded in December, 1872. From the commencement of the school the probationers received instruction by lectures and classes on the theoretical side of their work, and through the kindness of two friends of the Institution, prizes were awarded as far back as the year 1875 to the most distinguished probationers. From 1887 onwards the prizes were given by the Managers.

While excellence in practical work must always be of the first importance in nursing, this excellence cannot be obtained without a good theoretical basis. The Institution of State Examinations as qualifying for admission to the State Register of Nurses, has further emphasised the importance of systematic study in a nurse's curriculum. The need for more highly educated nurses for administrative posts, and as teachers, and public health workers, has for some time been recognised. For all these reasons the stimulus given to nurses' study by the award of prizes is to be commended.

The present course of study embraces the subjects required by the State Syllabus, and the prizes are awarded to those nurses who gain the highest marks in each subject.

The "Annie Warren Gill" special prize for Dietetics is awarded to-day on both theoretical and practical work. This annual prize forms part of an award founded in proud and affectionate memory of Miss Gill by nurses who trained with and under her in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

The "Affleck" Medal for 1939 is awarded to-day. This medal is given for distinction in nursing, and the award is decided by the highest total marks gained by a nurse for her work in the wards, for examinations and for general efficiency and conduct during the whole period of her training.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

Nurse A. W. ADAM, 1st prize medical nursing; 1st prize materia medica; 1st prize equal special subjects.
Nurse G. Y. WEIR, 2nd prize equal, medical nursing.
Nurse J. E. BUDGE, 2nd prize equal, medical nursing.
Nurse J. H. LEES, 2nd prize, materia medica.
Nurse M. F. INGLIS, 1st prize equal, special subjects.

Nurse C. GORDON, 1st prize equal, special subjects.
Nurse A. MACDONALD, 1st prize, gynæcological nursing.
Nurse A. K. EWING, 2nd prize, gynæcological nursing.
Nurse M. V. HARDEN, May, 1938, class, 1st prize, surgical nursing and instruments.
Nurse M. S. BELL, May, 1938, class, 2nd prize, surgical nursing and instruments.
Nurse L. ALDERSON, March, 1939, class, 1st prize, surgical nursing and instruments; 2nd prize, theory and practice of dietetics.
Nurse L. STICKNEY, March, 1939, class, 2nd prize, surgical nursing and instruments.
Nurse M. W. S. MUIR, June, 1938, class, 1st prize, senior general nursing.
Nurse D. J. COWAN, September, 1938, class, 1st prize, senior general nursing.
Nurse W. FLEMING, January, 1939, class, 1st prize, senior general nursing.
Nurse C. J. D. HARVEY, May, 1938, class, 1st prize, junior general nursing.
Nurse J. E. SALZMANN, August, 1938, class, 1st prize, junior general nursing.
Nurse E. C. THOMAS, October, 1938, class, 1st prize, junior general nursing; May, 1938, class, 1st prize, hygiene.
Nurse J. E. C. MUNRO, October, 1938, class, 1st prize, junior general nursing.
Nurse C. A. MACDONALD, February, 1939, class, 1st prize, junior general nursing.
Nurse B. J. HAY, March, 1939, class, 1st prize equal, junior general nursing.
Nurse J. B. M. MAXWELL, March, 1939, class, 1st prize equal, junior general nursing.
Nurse M. L. LANDALE, July, 1938, class, 1st prize, anatomy and physiology.
Nurse M. A. ROBERTSON, February, 1939, class, 1st prize, anatomy and physiology.
Nurse V. H. S. SEBLEY, May, 1938, class, 1st prize, hygiene.
Nurse M. BUCHANAN, December, 1938, class, 1st prize, hygiene.
Nurse A. W. ADAM, "Affleck" special prize for medical nursing.
Nurse P. F. MILLER, "Annie Warren Gill" memorial prize for dietetics theory and practice.
Nurse M. MACFIE, Nurse E. M. ROSS, *Proxime Accessit* equal for "Affleck" medal.
Nurse Alexandrina MACDONALD, "Affleck" medal.

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

The Women's Liberal Federation recently held a conference at Scarborough. Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., a member of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Nursing Services, and who signed its interim Report, "gave her much anticipated address on conditions in the Nursing Profession."

As reported Miss Lloyd George said: "I am speaking entirely for myself when I say this, but I went into this committee as a layman without any knowledge at all of the conditions that obtained in hospitals."

This confession of ignorance did not prevent Miss Lloyd George signing the interim Report advocating the degradation of the Registered Nurse, and the establishment for the nursing of the unfortunate sick of women unable to attain the minimum standard of knowledge provided for in the Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, and advocating the use of the Headquarters paid for by Registered Nurses for the organisation of practically untrained competitors by the establishment of a Roll of "Assistant Nurses." The Registered Nurses will bitterly resent for the future having to contribute for the handsome salary of £600 paid to Miss Lloyd George as an M.P. for interfering in their professional affairs of which she has owned she knows nothing.

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