

period of Military Service completed will be counted as service towards permanency.

Recruitment is open to those of European, Anglo-Indian or Indian parentage, who are either single women or widows.

Harvard University and the American Red Cross have sent to Great Britain a complete medical unit to study the preventive and clinical problems associated with infectious diseases under War conditions. The unit, which will consist of a Hospital and Laboratory, will be staffed by Harvard Doctors and American Red Cross Nurses. The Hospital will be organised and financed by the American Red Cross. The unit will be incorporated in the civil emergency hospital organisation of the Ministry of Health and will be directed by Professor J. E. Gordon of Harvard University.

This medical unit will not be ranked with our Army Medical Corps, which takes many risks in the fighting field, and will presumably be of professional benefit to the American medical faculty, privileged as it will be to study problems associated with diseases under War conditions.

We must keep in mind that the American Red Cross employs trained nurses, not V.A.D.s, so that if placed in charge of the nursing of our sick sailors, soldiers or airmen, we may hope a skilled service will be secured.

A very beautiful statue of Miss Florence Nightingale has recently been dedicated and permanently placed in the grounds of the Laguna Honda Home in San Francisco as a gift to the city. The inscription is as follows:—

"Of the vast throng passing from the mystery of birth to the mystery of death, certain ones so live that their deeds become impressed upon the memory of the race. Among these the name Florence Nightingale, whose life has been, is to-day, and will ever continue to be, a mighty influence against man's cruelty to man. To her memory, this statue, symbolizing the protection of the flame of life, is dedicated, and to all those following in her footsteps in the care of the sick."

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Frontier Nursing Service reports: In the Spring in the Kentucky Mountains our nurses are quite accustomed to find the women and children away from home, out on the hills, gathering "salad" for a mess of wild greens. The custom is as old as the word "mess" itself, a charming word whose usage now is limited to the officers' table of the army and navy. The greens are illustrated as gathered in early April by Mrs. Belle Morgan, of Wendover, the drawing from nature. Amateur green gatherers are cautioned against poisonous plants, "Careless," for instance, is almost a sister to Deadly Nightshade. The list includes a great variety of spring greens, for instance, Black Snake's Head, Wild Buckwheat, Dock, Lady's Thumb, Tongue Grass, Violet, Wild Mustard, Thistle, Old Field Mustard, Touch-me-not, Plantain, Shoestring, Poke, Rabbit Lettuce, Crow's Foot, Box Elder, and Woolly Breeches. A list for a mess to be gathered in England would be of interest. We only recognise half-a-dozen of the wild greens gathered in Kentucky to be found at home.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONTROL.

Articles criticising the new attempt to depreciate the status of its Nursing Department by the London County Council have recently appeared in the Press. None go to the root of the matter. The fact that the control of the Nursing Department is entirely dominated by a lay, and therefore, where professional organisation is concerned, by an unqualified committee, is the simple reason why it is ignorant of the responsibilities it assumes; and until the Nursing Profession demands power of representation and expression in the organisation of its duties, just so long will the L.C.C. be typical of ignorance and inefficiency. It is a well-known fact that ignorance is the factor of jealous intolerance where expert knowledge is concerned.

The Nursing Department of the L.C.C. has as much right as the Medical Department has to direct representation on the committees dealing with its work; and just so long as Nursing is classed as an unskilled vocation by the laity, just so long will ignorant persons who control it experiment with its organisation and retard its efficiency.

We are led to these reflections and remarks by learning that the London County Council is bent on still further depreciating the power of the Matrons of the Municipal Hospitals it controls, by placing lay wardens in competition with them. Hitherto the residences in which the Nursing staffs attached to the hospital live have been supervised by Registered Nurses, usually termed Home Sisters, ladies of experience and in sympathy with their colleagues who receive an advance in salary on that of Ward Sisters, and who are responsible to the Matron as senior officer.

The London County Council are now experimenting in placing lay wardens in charge of Nurses' Homes (we prefer the term residence) and paying them much higher salaries than are paid to professional nurses.

Can anything be more unjust? The Nursing Profession is by no means overpaid in junior ranks; and if it is to be denied promotion and positions for which its members can qualify, the very serious shortage of candidates for training will further increase, and even at the present date hundreds of public money has to be squandered in advertising for staff. It would be interesting to know just how much is spent by the L.C.C. in this particular.

The Matrons of the London County Council Hospitals will, we hope, do what is possible, in justice to their junior nursing staff, to claim the right of promotion to positions of responsibility and increased remuneration for Registered Nurses as Wardens of Nurses' Homes. In this particular they will be following the example of the Medical Profession in Residences and Colleges for medical students, which are superintended by medical men.

The Training of Nurse Wardens.

A course of training for Registered Nurses as Wardens of Nurses' Hostels might be inaugurated, which would include domestic management in a variety of branches. It would be well that such Wardens should be women of a sociable disposition, highly educated, well read, lovers of music and of their fellows.

previous page

next page