

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

OUR NEW COUNCILLORS.

MISS HENRIETTA GEORGINA BALLARD, S.R.N., D.N.,
M.B.C.N.

Miss H. G. Ballard has for a second term been elected a member of the Council of the British College of Nurses, on which she served from 1930 to 1933. Miss Ballard still holds the position of Sister Tutor at St. Leonard's Hospital, work in which her long experience has made her an expert greatly to the advantage of the students trained at that well-known L.C.C. Hospital. Miss Ballard has also been a Practical and Theoretical Examiner to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

At the outbreak of War she was transferred to Leavesden Emergency Hospital, to organise a Training School for Probationers evacuated from about ten London Hospitals, where the continuous interchange of nurses is neither good for Tutor nor Probationers, but where in the glorious country everyone has improved in mental and physical health. In addition, Miss Ballard has been giving Voluntary First Aid and Gas Lectures, thus helping to impart useful information during war.

The duties of a Sister Tutor are indispensable in our training schools for nurses, but not sufficiently recognised as such—and there is a shortage of these necessary officers, who it is to be hoped will receive encouragement when the schools will be overhauled after the War. It is already recognised that reorganisation in many Nursing Schools is necessary, and let us hope a thoroughly sound system will be inaugurated.

Competition as recommended by the Athlone Committee (in abeyance at present, thanks be) with semi-trained unexamined women, must be most determinedly opposed by Registered Nurses, and the General Nursing Council's depreciation of professional status fought to the death—otherwise we may as well cease to hope that the sick can be justly and humanely served.

Miss Ballard is strongly in favour of high and efficient standards of nursing, and realises that only by thorough teaching and long service is it possible to claim professional efficiency as a nurse.

The policy of the British College of Nurses must be to take a determined stand for justice for the sick and those who have the honour to serve them.

"What you will have, quoth God, pay for it and take it."—*Emerson*.



MISS HENRIETTA G. BALLARD, S.R.N., D.N., M.B.C.N.
Elected a Member of the Council, July, 1940.

UNPROFESSIONAL WARDENS OF NURSES' HOMES.

By request of members of the College, enquiries have been made from the Clerk of the London County Council, concerning the experiment of appointing lay Wardens of Nurses' Homes attached to its hospitals—and thus disassociating the nursing staff from professional environment. The following correspondence has taken place. The matter receives editorial comment on page 148.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING,
19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.
August 24th, 1940.

To the Clerk of the Council,
County Hall, S.E.1.

SIR,—The Proposal that Wardens of Nurses' Homes in connection with the London County Council Hospitals should be lay women instead of Professional Registered Nurses, and receive higher remuneration, is economically injurious to members of the Nursing Profession. I shall therefore be obliged if you will be good enough to inform me who is responsible for this suggestion, and who appoints these lay officials.

As I have received many enquiries concerning this proposal, I shall be greatly obliged if I may have a prompt reply, as I am going to press at an early date.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK,
Editor.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL,
The County Hall,
Westminster Bridge, S.E.1.
August 28th, 1940.

MADAM,—In reply to your letter of 24th August, 1940, I write to inform you that, in conformity with decisions made by the Council on July 26th, 1938, an experiment in the administration of nurses' homes is being conducted at Hammersmith House, the nurses' home at Hammersmith Hospital. The home has been placed, as far as possible, on a basis comparable with hostels for students and postgraduate students in other professions and careers, under the charge of a warden and an assistant warden, who were appointed by the Hospitals

and Medical Services Committee of the Council, and took up duty on February 1st, 1939 and March 15th, 1939, respectively. A nurses' welfare committee has also been established, under the presidency and vice-presidency of the warden and assistant warden, to deal with all social activities and matters of staff welfare.

Experience has shown that at least three officers are required to supervise the home under conditions designed to give the fullest value to the experiment, and the Council, on July 23rd, 1940, authorised the employment of another assistant warden.

It is proposed to review the arrangements further before July 31st, 1941.

The grounds of your observation that the appointment of wardens of nurses' homes is economically injurious to members of the nursing profession are not clear. Applications were invited by the Council by public advertisement for the positions

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